



Special points of interest:

- Women in the Census
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Searching Military Records
- Publications of Interest

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MESA DWELLERS

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Federal Census Records An Overview

Federal decennial population census schedules contain a wealth of information for genealogists as well as for historians and social scientists. They are of use to the family historian and researcher interested in westward expansion, the status of free and slave labor, regional and local history, immigration, and so forth. Often they contain evidence for proving citizenship.

As a rule, the information gathered in each successive census is progressively more detailed. The schedules for the period 1790-1840 show the names of enumerated heads of families only, other members of the family being simply tallied by age groups, sex, and race (white or Negro). All subsequent enumerations, however, list each individual in a household by name with ex-

ception of the slave schedules for 1850 and 1860, which show only the name of the owner and the number of his slaves by age group and sex. The 1850 census was the first to record each person's age, occupation if over age 15, and place of birth. If the parent of a person enumerated in the 1870 schedules was of foreign birth, that fact is indicated. The 1880 census adds the relationship of each individual to the head of the family, and gives the place of birth of the parents of the person enumerated.



Most of the 1890 population schedules were destroyed or badly damaged by fire. The few surviving segments have been microfilmed. The 1890 special census of Union veterans and

widows of Union veterans of the Civil War gives information about the military service of each veteran named and the post office address of each listed person who was living at the time of the enumeration.

The 1900 census consisted originally of seven schedules. Two population schedules were prepared, one for native Americans and one for all other residents. These are the schedules that are reproduced as microfilm publication T623. The five remaining schedules, containing information on agriculture, manufacturers, mortality, and crime, are not available from the National Archives or from Heritage Quest at this time.

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Locating U.S. Military Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) [<http://www.nara.gov>] houses several types of military records including service and pension records. For guides on the types of military records kept by NARA, see The Genealogy Page <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/genindex.html#guides>. You can also

request information from the National Personnel Records Center [<http://www.nara.gov/regional/stlouis.html>] for more recent military records by submitting a written form, but be aware that there is a large backlog of requests. A particularly useful print guide to U.S. military records is "Military Service Records in the National

Archives," General Information Leaflet 7, available from the National Archives and Records Administration, Room G-7, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20408.

For further help with re-

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MESA DWELLERS

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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.

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.

Mesa County Genealogical Society P.O. Box 1506, Grand Junction, Co 81502-1506

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. **Note: All Society meetings are held at the Museum of Western Colorado 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month.** Visitors are welcome. The Museum is located at 4th and Ute. The meetings are held in the conference room located in the Whitman School Building.

Up Coming Programs

13 Dec 2001 Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

10 Jan 2002 Gloria Heitsman and Joe Farrell will share their Research Trip to Ireland. They will expound on their experiences using the records in the Public Records in Dublin and Belfast.

14 Feb 2002 open

14 March 2002 Dr Steve Schulte from Mesa State College will talk about American Western History concentrating on Early 20th Century including recent research on Rep. Wayne Aspinall.

The January 10th meeting will have the revised By-Laws for the Society presented.

The February Meeting will be the new Officers and Board Members vote

Annual Family History Genealogy Fair at the Family History Center is Scheduled for the first Weekend of March, 2001. The dates are Friday March 1st and Saturday March 2nd.

Tips for the Researcher

If you can't find evidence of Grandma's death near where she lived, check to see if she moved in with a child. This new location may be significantly far from where she spent most of her life, but you may find a death certificate, tombstone, obituary, or other death-generated information there.

Research all of your ancestral siblings. Focusing on just your direct line may cause you to miss clues and information. Remember that information on your ancestors may be contained in their children's records (not just those in your direct line). For example, a biography of your great-grandfather's brother-

in-law may mention information on his wife's parents, who would be your great-grandfather's parents

The 1880 census not only lists where the individual was born but also lists where they thought their parents were born. If you know where their siblings are you can check to see if they all list the same location for the parents. This could give you a whole new locale to search for those lost ancestors that you can find no information on.

The Federal Census Records - An Overview

(Continued from page 1)

The 1900 census schedules give for each person: name; address; relationship to the head of the household; color or race; sex; month and year of birth; age at last birthday; marital status; if a wife is listed within the household, then the number of years married, number of children born of that marriage, and the number of children living; places of birth of each individual and of the parents of each individual; citizenship; if the individual is foreign born, then the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States; the citizenship status of foreign born individuals over age 21; occupation; whether or not the person can read, write, and

speak English; whether home is owned or rented; whether or not home is a farm; and whether or not home is mortgaged.

The 1910 census schedules record the following information for each person: name; relationship to head of household; sex; color or race; age at last birthday; marital status; length of present marriage; if a mother, number of children and number of living children; place of birth; place of birth of parents; if foreign born, year of immigration and citizenship status; language spoken; occupation; type of industry employed in; if employer, employee, or self-employed; if unemployed; number of weeks

unemployed in 1909; if home is rented or owned; if home is owned, free or mortgaged; if home is a house or a farm; if a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy; if blind in both eyes; and if deaf or dumb. The forms used to survey Indians, also recorded the tribe and/or band.

A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.

—Albert Einstein

A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm.

—Charles M. Schwab

This book contains the lineage of 3,351 OGS members who have proven 9,999 ancestors.

The First Families of Ohio Roster, 1964-2000

New Resource of Ohio Settlers
Anybody with ancestors who settled early in Ohio will be excited to learn that the Ohio Genealogical Society has just published "The First Families of Ohio Roster, 1964-2000," edited by Sunda Anderson Pe-

ters and Kay Ballantyne Hudson. "The First Families of Ohio" is a lineage society of The Ohio Genealogical Society. This book contains the lineage of 3,351 OGS members who have proven that their 9,999 ancestors were in Ohio

by December 31, 1820. OGS members may purchase copies of the book for \$22.95, non-members \$26.95 (plus \$3.00 postage). For more information on this great new resource for the Buckeye State, visit the OGS Web site.

NOTICE: Mail Requests to National Archives, Archives I Suspended

The following is an official notice from the National Archives.

Mail delivery to Archives I (700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC) was stopped on October 23rd, due to the discovery of anthrax at the Brentwood mail distribution center, and the Archives I mailroom was closed. Archives I was swept for anthrax contamination and the findings were

negative. No anthrax was found. The mailroom, however, has not reopened and until it does, no completed orders are being mailed to customers. These orders include all of the NATF 81 through 86 requests (Passenger Arrival, Census, Eastern Cherokee Applications, Land Records, Pension Applications, and Military Service Records). Orders that were in the

Brentwood mail distribution center at the time the center was closed, and other orders addressed to Archives I immediately after the closure will be delayed.

Orders addressed to Archives II (College Park, MD) were not affected by the closing of the Brentwood mail distribution center. College Park is serviced by a different mail distribution center.

New Publications:

DAR Publications

Every working family historian soon learns that the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has a fabulous research library in Washington, D.C. But do you know that this group has several special publications compiled to help you with researching in their library?

American Genealogical Research at the DAR, Washington, D.C. is the first-ever guide to using the 140,000 books and 250,000 files and manuscript collections that comprise the collections of one of the nation's premier genealogical research centers.

African American and American Indian Patriots of the American Revolutionary War is a 200-page volume compiled to help you document these special ancestors.

Catalog of the Seimes Microfilm Col-

lection, DAR Library, is a listing of all the library's microfilm collection, but is best known for the microfilmed DAR Membership Applications. Order any of these books through the Treasurer General, NSDAR.

Hoosier Vitals

Indiana comprises 36,291 square miles, its capitol is Indianapolis and it's home to none other than the Indianapolis 500. On December 11, 1816 Indiana became the nineteenth state to join the Union. So what else is Indiana known for? My ancestors, and many of yours, filed into this newly formed state to call it home.

By mid-century, Indiana began keeping records of births, marriages and deaths. In 1942 the Works Projects Administration (WPA) began to index these vital records, county by county within the state, but the agency was abolished before the project was completed. Only

68 of the 92 counties had their birth and death records (1882-1920) and marriages (generally 1850-1920) collected and indexed (See the Red Book).

Now all of these indexed records are far easier to search with a new set of CDs from Heritage Quest. The Indiana Vital Records Collection contains birth, marriage and death indexes in a convenient 4-CD set. It contains over 5.44 million records, and it's a good bet you can find your Hoosier ancestors there.

Individual CDs are sold separately: Indiana Vital Records Birth Index, 1850-1920

Indiana Vital Records Marriage Index, 1850-1920

Indiana Vital Records Death Index, 1800-1941

Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Applications Index

Earlier this year HeritageQuest announced the digitization of the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files at the National Archives. They have now released a new master index on CD-ROM to these 898 rolls of microfilm.

Researchers can quickly check to see if their patriot ancestor or a family member applied for a pension or received a bounty land warrant. With this information a researcher can then request a digital copy of the original file. Requests sent to HeritageQuest for these digital files are processed within 3 days.

Most files contain 6 or more pages on each individual. 2001 is the start of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution that will be celebrated through 2008.

This index to the 898 microfilm in the National Archives M-805 microfilm series is in an easy-to-use CD-ROM format. There are 898 CD's in the digital microfilm series. Each CD is copied from the microfilm and assigned a number to correspond with the microfilm's National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) identification number.

The records contain both genealogical and historical information. A veteran's pension application normally gives his former rank, unit, and period of service, age or date of birth, his residence, and sometimes his birthplace. Property schedules often give names and ages of a veteran's wife and children. The application of a widow seeking a pension or a bounty land warrant may give her age, residence, maiden name, date and place of her marriage, and date and place of death of her husband. Applica-

tion papers submitted by children and other heirs or dependents seeking pensions or bounty land warrants generally contain information about their ages and residences. Applicants often submitted the family-record pages from family Bibles and other documents to substantiate their claims. These Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files contain genealogical records from an estimated 80,000 individuals who served in the American military, navy, and marines, both officers and enlisted men, in the Revolutionary War. Most of the records were dated between 1800 and 1900.

ISBN: 1931488894. ACD 0111.
\$19.95

Locating Women in the Census

By Leland K. Meitzler Executive Editor, Heritage Quest Magazine

Census records can often give us the clues that will lead to the maiden names of our female ancestors. The U.S. Federal Census for 1880, 1885, 1900, 1910 and 1920 all have a column for "relationship to head of household." (Note: 1930, which will be released next April, also has this data.) If a male is the head of household, watch for people living within the household who might be listed as in-laws (father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, etc). These people "could" be the family of the lady of the household. Keep in mind that "in-laws" can come from more than one direction, so the researcher must check the records carefully. However, this information may be the clue you need to make that next step back in time.

Following are two examples of in-law's leading to a women's maiden name:

The first example is taken from the 1910 U.S. Federal Census of Banard Twp, Hughes Co., Oklahoma, Heritage Quest CD-ROM T624-1255, Enumeration District 96, page 1. We find the family of Pastill Pallard, age 37. His wife's name is Minnie, age 29, born in Texas with her father born in Texas and mother born in Alabama. At the end of the enumeration, a Willie Daffern is listed as

brother-in-law, age 17, born in Texas with his father born in Texas and mother born in Alabama. Based on Willie's entry being listed as brother-in-law and the fact that he and his parents are born in the same state as Minnie's parents, it looks like Minnie's maiden name is Daffern, since it seems she is his sister. Upon further research, this assumption turned out to be correct.

A second example is from the 1920 Federal Census of Colbert Twp, McClain Co., Oklahoma, Heritage Quest CD-ROM T625-1470, Enumeration District 76, page 115. This record shows the family of Charlie Taylor, age 37. His wife's name is Jennie, age 34, born in Texas with her father born in Texas and mother born in Alabama. Here again, at the end of the enumeration, we find a Green M. Daffern listed as father-in-law, age 66, born in Texas. One must be careful. It is technically possible that Charlie Taylor could have a father-in-law from a previous marriage. However, in this case it wasn't probable and sure enough, Green Daffern is Jennie's dad. Jennie's maiden name was Daffern.

State Census Records

Census records may contain some surprising information. The 1865 New York State Census contained a section V that was a table of marriages of inhabitants that took place during the previous year (May 31, 1864 through June 1, 1865). The following information can be found on that census:

Name of husband
Husband's age
Husband's previous civil condition (single, widowed, divorced)
Name of bride
Bride's age
Bride's Previous Civil Condition (single, widowed, divorced)
Date of marriage
Name of city or town where marriage occurred
How marriage was solemnized (clergy, civil magistrate, declaring before witnesses)
A typical entry was for Patrick Murphy, age 41, widowed, who married Margaret (Moran) Lawler, aged 36, Widowed, in November (no day given) 1864, at Rochester, NY by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church. Here we find not only the bride's previous married name, but also her maiden name.

A GREAT GIFT FOR ANY GENEALOGIST!

INTERNATIONAL VITAL RECORDS HANDBOOK by Thomas Jay Kemp (2000) Reprint 2001. 616 pp. paper. ISBN 0-8063-1655-1. Price \$34.95

The application forms needed to obtain copies of vital records vary from state to state and from country to country, often necessitating a tedious and time-wasting exchange of correspondence. The International Vital Records Handbook is designed to put an end to all that, as it offers a complete, up-to-date collection of vital records application forms from na-

tions throughout the world, thus simplifying and speeding up the process by which vital records are obtained.

This new 4th edition of the International Vital Records Handbook contains the latest forms and information for each of the fifty states and also furnishes details about the records that were created prior to statewide vital records registration; then, in alphabetical sequence, it covers all the other countries of the world, giving, where available, their current forms

and instructions; and since most non-English-speaking nations have neither a centralized vital records registration system nor application forms of any kind, this work provides as a substitute a list of national and provincial record repositories or key addresses of other institutions that might be of assistance.

Application forms issued by the various civil registration offices and the current procedures for obtaining a birth, marriage, or death certificate (and, in many cases, a divorce or adoption record) are given for each

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Minnesota Historical Society Death Records Index & More

Whenever I am in St. Paul, Minnesota I always stop in at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to do a little family history research. MHS was founded in 1849 and they have been collecting books, maps, photographs, records, etc for over 150 years. The newspaper collection includes nearly every newspaper ever published in Minnesota. These are all on microfilm and I use them every time I visit. The MHS collections include nearly 5 million records. They include 500,000 in the library collection, 8,000 manuscript collections (with about 95 million pieces of paper), 19,000 maps, 2,000 atlases, and a vast photograph, posters and artwork collection. They also maintain the State Archives of government records including State, county, city, village and

township records.

I have been using the recent filming of Minnesota Death Records the past couple years when I am in Minnesota. This filming is now available as an index on the MHS web site - www.mnhs.org. These records currently cover 1908 to 1950 and will eventually go to 1955. The Office of Vital Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health maintains the death certificates since 1955. To access the index click on **Library & Collections** on the main page. Next click on the **Search Catalogs** tab on the left. There you will see links to the *Death Index*, The online library catalog (*PALS*), *AskRon Newspaper Index*, *Minnesota Place Names*, where you can search for the origin of place names in Minnesota, *Minnesota Author Biogra-*

phies Project, and the *Visual Resources Database* (photos, postcards, artwork etc).

If you find a death record you are interested in, you can order a copy of it for \$8.00 from the MHS web site. You can also make your own copy for 25 cents if you do your research directly at the MHS in St. Paul, Minnesota.

I found an interesting site <http://home.att.net/~weemonster/deathrecords.html> that lists internet site links for finding death records for many other states, and counties. Many of these have searchable indexes of death records as well as other vital records.

Check out these sites and other state historical society sites to see if they will aid you in researching your family history.

Dennis Jenkins
Dennis.jenkins@prodigy.net

The MHS collections include nearly 5 million records.

Searching U.S. Military Records

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cord searching, look up *Genealogy Online For Dummies*, 3rd Edition <http://catalog.dummies.com/product.asp?ISBN=0764508075>, by Matthew L. and April Leigh Helm, published by Hungry Minds, Inc.

Pensions were often granted to veterans who were disabled or who demon-

strated financial need after service in a particular war or campaign; widows or orphans of veterans also may have received benefits. These records are valuable to genealogists because in order to receive pensions, your ancestors had to prove they had served in the military. Proof entailed a discharge certificate or the sworn testimony of the veteran and witnesses. Pieces of information that you can find in pen-

sion records include your ancestor's rank, period of service, unit, residence at the time of the pension application, age, marriage date, spouse's name, names of children, and the nature of the veteran's financial need or disability. If a widow submitted the application, you may also find records verifying her marriage to the veteran and death records.

Research Tools and Tips

Until recent times, most Scandinavian peoples followed a simple naming system: the son -- Leif -- of a man named Erik would bear the name Leif Erikson (and the daughter of Erik would have the last name Eriksdottir, or a similar feminine ending). Most of Iceland still follows this medieval tradition (except that children can use the mother's name instead of the father's if they choose). However, in the 19th century, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden adapted to the European tradition so that a patronymic (the father's last name) passes down through the male line unchanged. Nevertheless, if your ancestors are of Scandinavian heritage, you won't trace many generations back before running into the

older naming pattern (and potentially a dead end -- how can you guess Erik's last name?). The following sites can help you understand the particular naming conventions of your Scandinavian ancestors:

* Danish Naming Customs
[<http://www.cproots.com/surnameorigins/namesystems/namsysdan.htm>]

* Forming Finnish Patronymic Names
[<http://www.engr.uvic.ca/~syli/geneo/patronymic.html>]

* Medieval Names Archives: Scandinavian Names
[<http://www.panix.com/~mittle/names/scandinavian.shtml>]

* Virtually Virtual Iceland: Icelandic Names

[<http://www.simnet.is/gardarj/family.htm>]

In April 2002 the NARA plans to release the 1930 U.S. Federal Census on microfilm. Digital CD copies of each roll of microfilm will also be available.

When requesting records from a courthouse or other repository, indicate that you need documentation. The title of the book (frequently on the spine for original records) and the page number will be necessary should you ever have to locate the record again. It is also good idea for any articles you have copied yourself to copy the title page of the book. It makes documentation and retrieval a whole bunch easier

In April 2002 the NARA plans to release the 1930 U.S. Federal Census.

All I Want For Christmas is

Tired of being pestered by Family always asking what you want for Christmas. Here's My Top Ten Genealogists wish list.

1. Someone to find conclusive proof of my elusive family patriarch links to his parents and siblings and mailed it to me out of the blue
2. Round trip tickets with

lodging to Salt Lake City with an unlimited copy card for the library.

3. A lifetime subscription to Ancestry .com
4. National Archives to move to Grand Junction.
5. Genealogist's Book A Month club and all the books are free.
6. A volunteer to transcribe

all my notes, even the ones I can't read.

7. Someone else in my family interested in Genealogy (other than my wife)
8. An ancestors journal
9. A trunk of letters and papers chronicling the family history
10. PATIENCE, PATIENCE,

VITAL RECORDS HANDBOOK

(Continued from page 5)

state, province, territory, or country. The application forms are the most current forms in use, and they can be copied and re-copied as often as the need arises. Simply photocopy the form you need, check the corresponding data page for the name and address of the vital records office, the fees involved in applying for copies of vital records, and any special

notes on the records themselves, then send the fee and the completed form to the appropriate record office. Simple as that!

Highlights of the First New Edition in 6 years!

* Covers all the countries of the world including North America, the British Isles, and Europe.

* New application forms! Contains hundreds of new or up-

dated forms from home and around the world.

* New data! Includes current addresses and phone numbers, with fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and web sites, if available, as well as fees, starting dates of records, and alternative record locations.

* Over 200 pages longer than previous editions! Loads of more information!

MESA DWELLERS

Determine New Research Goals for the New Year

Doing meaningful genealogy requires forethought and planning. Without a plan, the purposes you have set out to accomplish may not be achieved. What is it you specifically hope to find? In genealogy research, the majority of goals focus upon:

Finding the parent's names

Finding an individual's birth date or place

Finding a marriage date or place

Finding a death date or place

Finding a spouse's name, or maiden name

Finding the names of siblings

Finding background information on the family

Analyze What You Already Know

One of the easiest ways to determine which goals to pursue

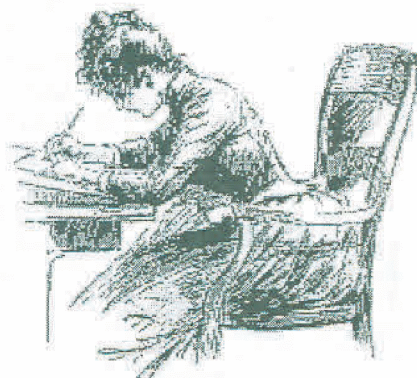
is to look at your existing family pedigree or ancestral chart, family group records, or individual data fields on your computer program. Is anything missing or questionable? Could those missing items fall under one of the goal categories mentioned above?

Techniques to Keep in Mind

Now a word of caution! As you begin to select a goal, the following research techniques should be adhered to in order to prevent researching the wrong family line:

Go from known information to unknown information.

You cannot set a goal if you have not separated fact from tradition, hypothesis from actu-



ality.

Don't skip generations or sources.

Don't skip generations or sources. By finding the birth place of the individual, you may also find his parent's names. You could select as another goal to find the marriage

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I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.

—Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826

Surnames with Multiple Spellings?

Q: I would like to know the proper way to enter surnames with multiple spellings. In the surname line of my genealogy program do I put May/Mey? Or do I put May(Mey)? Or do I only put May in the surname field and make a note that it is also spelled Mey in the note field?

A: Before computers people did what they wanted to and didn't worry about a proper way to record surnames.

We now have to stop and think about what we may be doing with our database. Often, deciding what the focus of the research is will have the most profound effect on

name entry. So before you come up with a method, etched in stone, you may want to decide what you are recording the names in the database for.

As genealogists, we are often used to doing things a certain way. This is never more true than when it comes to spelling, especially surnames.

Computers are literal. If you suspect that you will be doing a lot of searching on surnames, then you will want to keep this computer limitation in mind and enter surnames accordingly. If your database is more for the printing of reports, then you

may not need to worry about this computer limitation.

There are two schools of thought on surnames. One school leans toward being consistent in the spelling of a surname regardless of how it is spelled in the records where you find the individual. The other school of thought suggests that you should record the surnames as you find them in the records.

The thinking to those who want consistency is that you can show the relationships as well as be able to effectively search the database on your computer. The way these people get around this is to

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Smith or Smythe?

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have a list of variant spellings they need to check when researching, but when they record the name in their database or on a given family group sheet or pedigree chart, they adhere to a standard spelling.

The other school of thought stems from trying to be as accurate as possible in the recording of the information. By recording the spelling as it is found, they can see how the surname may have changed over a period of time, especially useful when working on immigrants.

The downside to this is what spelling do you take? In some research you may find a person's surname spelled three or

four different ways in three or four different records. For instance if the census record, the first record you have of a person lists her name as Minnie, then she gets entered as Minnie. However, subsequent research may reveal that her birth name is Minerva. As you find records to support this then you can change the name.

From a computer standpoint, a consistent spelling seems the way to go to guarantee that you do find everyone in your database with the given surname. However, it also gives credence to the old myth that "our family always spelled the name this way." This is not true. Up until the 20th century, spelling was not a big deal. The name was spelled however the clerk re-

cording it felt like spelling it. Ignoring people with a variant spelling is a dangerous habit to get into, and one that is avoided if you are recording the spelling of a surname as it appears in the record at hand.

If you do elect to keep a consistent spelling, you will want to be sure to have a list of variant spellings handy. Some researchers add it as a note for the person in their database.

If you elect to go with the different spellings, you will need to remember to search for all variant spellings if you are running any kind of searches in your database to generate a report of some kind based on surname. This can be frustrating, and to many not worth the effort.

New Year Research Goals and Guidelines

(Continued from page 8)

record or marriage application for the person.

WITHIN REASON, get them all.

You need to record all individuals of the same surname in the same locality. You are doing this because even though your 3rd great grandfather may not have stated on his marriage record the name of his parents, his sister, who lived in the same county, may have stated the name of her parents, which was just what you were looking for.

Find the county jurisdiction today.

Look at a current atlas or map and determine where the location would be today. Make a copy of that area in case you will want to contact genealogy societies, historical societies, or local libraries

in the present location.

Locality analysis. Now you must determine the name of the location at the time of the event. The reason for this is that records are catalogued and retained in their original jurisdiction.

Use gazetteers of the time period, geographical dictionaries, maps, and books to guide you

List all sources searched, both negative and positive We must list our negative searches as well as our positive searches. That way we can just indicate whether we found something or not.

Determine what others have already discovered.

Avoid duplication of effort by a preliminary survey. This involves searching major biographical data-

bases, the Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index, the Library of Congress database, Internet sources, etc. Often this information is secondary, but it can help you find locations for primary sources.

Plan your research process with the help of a Research Planner.

Do not confuse a *Research Planner* with a *Log*. The latter only records what was found. The former records not only what was found, but also what was *not* found; when an item was searched, and what records **SHOULD** eventually be searched. Using a Research Planner is a very important step to set goals. A Research Planner helps to focus you on what you are doing and reminds you to apply the other 7 basic rules stated above.

Excerpts from an article by Karen Clifford, AG

Mesa County Genealogical Society

Mesa County Genealogical
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