



Other things may change us, but we start and end with family."

--- Anthony Brandt

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

--- Vincent Van Gogh

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Want to see your name in print? Submissions welcomed and will be used eventually.

The Editor

## The Plight of the Genealogy Reference Librarian

— George G. Morgan

Many of you know that my seminar company focuses a great deal of its work on providing continuing education to library personnel. As an educator, a genealogist, and an activist working on behalf of libraries, I have found myself in a unique position to see what happens in libraries' genealogy departments from both sides of the reference desk. Sometimes it's a sight of excitement and mutual discovery, and at other times it can be an exercise in mutual frustration.

I've just developed a new seminar titled "The Art of the Reference Interview," which I will have debuted this week by the time you read this column. It addresses the methods by which librarians can, through asking open-ended questions of their patrons, more accurately determine what it is that a library patron really wants to know.

In "Along Those Lines..." this week, I'd like to share with you the perspective of the genealogy reference librarian, and I hope these insights will help you

become a better researcher in the process.

### What Was the Real Question?

It happens every day in every library around the world. Patrons present themselves at the reference desk to ask for help without being able to ask the right question. This isn't a source of concern to them; they're used to it. But these unsung heroes of the "information revolution" often have a very difficult time eliciting the right question from their patrons. And without knowing the real question, it is much less likely that the patron's need will be met.

There are several reasons for the problem:

1. We as patrons aren't really sure what it is we are looking for, much less whether it actually exists.
2. We know what we want but have trouble describing or articulating it to the librarian.

3. The librarian doesn't have or isn't using good interviewing skills or techniques.

4. There is a communication gap between the patron and the librarian.

5. The librarian has an inadequate knowledge of all the resources to which he or she has access, or has not been given the training to use some of them. (Online databases immediately come to my mind here.)

6. Either the librarian or the patron (or both) do not understand how to develop and put to use good search strategies to uncover the needed information among the available resources.

That is not to say that either the patron or the librarian is to blame, or that either is stupid, incompetent, or ineffectual. What I'm saying is that there is a communication

(Continued on page 4)

## Illustrating Your Family History

Halvor Moorshead describes some sources of illustrations.

There's a popular saying in journalism: "A picture is worth a 1,000 words". Family histories may be well researched, giving proper references, but let's be honest, they can look awfully dull. If you have photographs of your ancestors, these will brighten things up and will be helped further with the use of creative captions rather than just a line indentifying the subject.

Using your imagination, a bit of time on the Internet and in

the library will not only allow you to spice up your family history with illustrations but it can be a lot of fun. If you have a scanner, you may find many relevant illustrations in books or encyclopedias. An enormous selection which is easy to search using your choice of keywords is available if you have access to the web, and, in most cases, you

(Continued on page 6)

### Inside this issue:

Special Meeting	3
Organize Your Research	3
Migration Sources	5
Write Now!	7
Research Counties	8
Genealogical Standards	9



# 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.

## USGenWeb Mesa County Site

Mesa County USGenWeb site now has cemetery pages. If you have headstone shots or other photos that would enhance a cemetery in **Mesa County OR Dolores County**. Please Contact Teri Cleaveland for postal instructions. Terri would prefer that pictures be at least 150 dpi and no smaller than 4x5 inches.

The Mesa County USGenweb site is [www.rootsworld.com/~comesa2/index.html](http://www.rootsworld.com/~comesa2/index.html)

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 4<sup>th</sup> and Ute. The meetings are held in the conference room located in the Whitman School Building.

## November 2003

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## Five Steps to Organizing Your Research

— Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

### What's Your Problem?

In genealogy we have many problems, too many to work on all at once. We are most likely to find solutions if we focus on a single problem and stick with it until we reach a conclusion, either by finding the solution or by admitting that we can't do any more on it right now.

Be specific and keep a narrow focus. Instead of, "Who was the wife of Samuel Smith?" consider the problem statement, "Did Samuel Smith's wife come from a neighboring family in Scott County?"

Put your problem statement in writing and post it near your work area. Make another copy to stick in your library bag. Use these as reminders to keep you from straying onto other problems.

### FREE BLANK COUNTRY OUTLINE MAPS

I recently read a tip regarding using government mapping sites and books to find blank maps to plot your own ancestor's migration paths.

One suggestion was to make your own by tracing a map out of a book.

But once in a while you have to think outside the genealogy box and consider what may be available from sources outside of those, which are commonly used by genealogists. Doing a web search for "blank maps," I came upon a wealth of sites offering free blank maps. One such site has blank maps in printable versions of continents, countries, and U. S. counties. This site is aimed towards helping school children but is perfect for genealogists too. It is called geography.about.com. The url for the page with the listing of maps is <http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blusx.htm>

If you want a wall-size map, you can take it to Kinko's or some other copying service and have it blown up.

Diana Thornton  
Beaumont, Tex.

### What Do You Know?

The next step is to review and compile all of the information that you currently have. This may take quite a while, certainly more than you expect, maybe even more than the research itself. Plan for the time. The Dallas Library is open on Sunday from 1 until 5. I get home from church about 11:30. Many times I have thought to myself "I can organize my stuff after church and be at the library soon after one o'clock," only to find myself at 4:30 still collating and analyzing the research I had already done.

No matter how much time this step takes, it can save you much, much more. I know from sad experience. I have searched in the wrong place. I have searched in the wrong years. I have searched for the wrong person. I have searched in records I have examined already. This wasted effort, time, and money could have been saved if I had taken the time for this step.

I usually organize the information in two parts. First, I abstract all the documents I've found thus far and arrange them chronologically. Second, I compile family groups from the information.

### What Do You Need to Find Out?

Once you've clearly identified what you know, it's relatively easy to identify what you don't know. This is not the same as the problem. It is, instead, the specific items that you need to find out. You probably thought of several "need to find" items as you were organizing your prior research.

For example, you may need to find out "Who were the neighbors of Stephen Smith?" "Did any of them have a daughter the right age?" and "Can any of them be eliminated as a potential family?"

### Where Will You Find It?

Before you head for to the library or

courthouse, prepare a plan for how you intend to go about seeking the answers.

List the types of resources you want to check. For example, to identify the neighbors, you'll want to check census, land, and tax records. Censuses will identify families with eligible daughters. Probates of neighbors may help eliminate possible families.

Check for specific sources to use. Online catalogs for large libraries are very helpful at this stage. Next you need to determine if these resources are going to be available to you at places you plan to research. Do you need to order microfilm from the Family History Library or from the state archives on Interlibrary Loan? List microfilm or book call numbers from online catalogs to save on-site time.

### What's the Deliverable?

The term "deliverable," familiar in the consulting environment, isn't usually used by genealogists—but it can be valuable in focusing your efforts. Consultants don't just tell clients their conclusions. They must prepare a report that describes the existing situation, make key observations about it, and recommend future activities—not unlike the report a professional genealogist might make to a client. Often consultants make several such reports during a project.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## New Trial Daytime Meeting

There will be a trial MCGS meeting Nov 5 at 12:00 pm noon in the conference room across the hall from the Lloyd Files Research Library. For members who are unable to make the evening meetings this is an excellent chance to get back in touch with the Society. A short program from the Ancestry Series will be offered. Bring your own lunch for the meeting.



## The Plight of the Genealogy Reference Librarian

— George G. Morgan

(Continued from page 1)

breach that needs to be addressed.

### The Reference Interview

A tool which librarians are taught to use is the reference interview. Its name comes from the fact that the patron (you and me) asks for information or assistance from the reference librarian. The librarian then conducts an interview with us to help clarify what we really want. I call the reference interview a form of "polite interrogation."

Let's say that I approach the reference desk and ask the question, "Do you have any books about Swedish people?" The librarian needs to know more than that in order to help me, so he or she plays something like the role of a journalist. He or she asks me open-ended questions to learn the "who," "what," "when," "where," and "why" of my question.

Open-ended questions are those that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer, more than a one- or two-word reply. The librarian might ask me:

- "Is there a specific person or group you're researching?"
- "What kind of information are you looking for?"
- "Do you want information about history, geography, Swedish society, or some other facet of Swedish life?"
- "How do you plan to use the information?"
- "What do you already know about the subject?"
- "What materials have you already researched?"

Wow! By the time the librarian has finished with me, we will have together articulated the fact that it is my hope today to learn more about an ancestor who emigrated from Sweden to the United States in the 1920s, and who possibly arrived at Ellis Island. The librarian may or may not be skilled in genealogy, but he or she should have the expertise in research to help me learn what resources may exist. In that way, the librarian becomes my guide to a variety of resources: books, magazines, microfilm, databases, websites, interlibrary loan requests, and referrals to other library collections or historical and genealogical resources.

### What the Librarian Doesn't Need to Know

The librarian has a limited amount of time to spend with each patron. That means that they don't want to hear your entire family history or see the 1922 photograph of your Great-Aunt Penelope McCorkindale in her swimming cos-

tume at Atlantic City.

While your librarian may be a good researcher and have an excellent knowledge of the resources available for many subjects, don't ask him or her to do your research for you. That takes the fun out of your own accomplishment. Feel free to return for guidance and pointers on how to locate other materials and get the most from them. However, please don't ask the librarian to photocopy an entire book for you, hand-copy entries from a city directory, or "pull all the microfilmed ships' passenger lists for ships coming from Sweden to New York or Philadelphia between 1920 and 1925." Not even a five-pound box of Godiva chocolates is going to get you that kind of service!

### Make the Most of Your Library Time

While the reference librarian is there to help you, his or her role is to get you started and to consult with you as you need additional guidance. The librarian can provide you some incidental training on the use of the library, its collection, its computers, its microfilm readers, the databases, and other resources. However, you must become self-reliant and spend your time wisely.

An important way of helping yourself work smarter is to plan your research goals in advance of arriving at the library. Determine whom you want to research, where they were located and when, and what you want or need to learn. That means reviewing what you already know and then preparing a list of questions you would like to answer. If you arrive at the reference librarian's desk with your goals clearly defined, you will be better able to articulate your questions and the librarian can more effectively help you find the best resources for your search.

### The Librarians' Anecdotes

There is a story told by genealogy librarians about the woman who came up to the reference desk and asked, "Where is the book about my family's genealogy? And how long will it take you to photocopy it for me? My husband is waiting outside in the car with the motor running." You can laugh, but this is a true story. The patron had no idea what she wanted or what expectations to have. As a result, this real life woman's request has become a legendary anecdote that genealogy librarians share everywhere they gather.

Try looking at yourself from the research librarian's perspective. Organize yourself

and your goals before starting your research trip. Formulate your questions in some logical way. Then, when you get to the reference desk, you can more effectively use the expert services of the reference librarian to guide you to resources.

Ask the right questions and you can greatly improve the possibilities of locating the right answers.

Happy Hunting!  
George

*George G. Morgan would like to hear from you at "atl @ ahaseminars.com", but due to the volume of e-mail received, he is unable to answer every message. Please note that he cannot assist you with your individual research. Visit George's website at ahaseminars.com/atl for information about speaking engagements.*

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## Organizing Your Research

(Continued from page 3)

Likewise, for your problem, merely finding the solution is insufficient. That is not a deliverable. You should bring closure to the problem by preparing a written document that states the problem, describes the research, comes to a conclusion, and suggests further work.

This deliverable will be useful in sharing your efforts with others interested in the research and it will help bring you up to speed quickly the next time you work on this family.

*Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of Producing a Quality Family History.*

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## American Migration Sources

— Kip Sperry

Finding your American ancestors can sometimes be difficult because they may have moved so frequently. You might begin your search by asking yourself why your ancestors migrated from one locality to another. Some possible reasons for migration may have included: opportunity to obtain land, crop failures, military bounty land, follow a religious leader, religious persecution, follow relatives or friends, economic reasons, change of climate, improve social and poverty conditions, political reasons, military transfer, wars, follow construction projects (such as canals and railroads), and other reasons.

Understanding migration trails in the localities where your ancestors resided may help to trace their migra-

tion to a previous place of residence. Travel in America was usually along existing trails and roads, such as the National Road that extended from Maryland to Illinois, or along rivers, lakes, and canals, such as the Erie Canal, Hudson River, Ohio River, or Mississippi River. Roads and river travel improved throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Boston Post Road was used by many people and extended from the New England states to New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and into the Southern states.

One of the most important routes to the west was New York's Erie Canal, the main artery opening the west. Opened in 1825, the Erie Canal extended from Albany to Buffalo, New York, linking the Hudson River with Lake Erie. It was the success of the Erie Canal that set off the canal building era in America. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other states soon had their own canals. The arrival of the railroads brought an end to the canal era from about 1860 to 1880.

### Migration Maps

A number of Internet sites contain maps showing migration routes in America. Ancestry.com maintains a "Map Center" which features several hundred historical maps of interest to genealogists and historians. See especially the heading "Migration." [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/reference/maps/main.asp](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/reference/maps/main.asp)

"The American Migrations Web Site" attempts to have an online database of immigration and migration records. [members.aol.com/gedsearch/migrate.htm](http://members.aol.com/gedsearch/migrate.htm)

"Cyndi's List: Migration Routes, Roads & Trails" identifies westward migration routes, trails, roads, mailing lists, newsgroups, maps, gazetteers, publications, and more.

[www.cyndislist.com/migration.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/migration.htm)

### Migration Sources

Federal census schedules and state census records after 1850 are useful in tracing migration. The 1880 U.S. Census was the first to show the parent's birthplace (state or country). Sometimes church records show where an individual or family migrated, or a notation may have been made in the church records in the new locality showing where they came from (previous place of residence). Land records sometimes will show a previous place of residence. Gravestones sometimes show where a person was born. Military records are very useful in tracing migration. Printed sources, such as biographies and compiled genealogies are useful as a beginning source. Computer databases, such as the International Genealogical Index, should be used as a first step in the research process (see "Search for Ancestors" at FamilySearch Internet). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The following list of sources may be useful in tracing migration of individuals and families in America (listed alphabetically, not in order of priority):

- Bible records and home sources
- Biographical works (sometimes known as "mug books")
- Census schedules (federal, state, and local census records, especially after 1850)
- Church records
- Compiled genealogies and family histories
- Court records
- DAR genealogical collections (Bible records and other transcriptions)
- Divorce records
- Gravestone inscriptions and

(Continued on page 6)

### TIMELY TIPS

#### TRY LEAVING THE NAME FIELDS BLANK

Sometimes it pays to leave the name fields blank during a census search. I knew my great-grandfather moved from Indiana to Nebraska after 1910 but I could not find him or any of his children in the 1930s census index, nor some of his siblings. I accidentally left the name fields blank while searching a Nebraska County for Indiana births. Besides finding several fathers-in-law of various great aunts and great uncles, the resulting 63 head of household list blew apart two brick walls! Who would have guessed Ross would be listed as Rose? Somehow my great-grandfather's first and last names got transposed, so using the first name as the surname, I found my grandfather and his siblings.

Sandra Halouska



## American Migration Sources

(Continued from page 5)

### cemetery records

- Land and property records (land grants, patents, deeds, bounty lands, etc.)
- Local histories (town, county, regional, and other histories)
- Manuscript collection (may include unpublished compiled genealogies)
- Military service and pension records, unit histories, other military records
- Mortality schedules, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 (some records are incomplete)
- Naturalization and citizenship records (since 1790)
- Newspapers (obituaries, marriage notices, biographies, local news, etc.)
- Passport applications (since 1795)
- Passenger lists and immigration records (since 1820; many earlier records published and indexed by P. William Filby)
- Patriotic and lineage society records (DAR, SAR, Mayflower Society, etc.)
- Periodicals (genealogical and historical periodicals and newsletters)

• Probate records (wills, administrations, probate case files)

• Tax lists (Kentucky tax records are one of the best examples)

• Vital records (births, marriages, and death records)

• Voting registers

### Selected Bibliography

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## ILLUSTRATIONS AND HISTORY

Halvor Moorshead

(Continued from page 1)

will not be infringing copyright. Scanning pictures from published works for your family history is at least a technical breach of copyright.

### Sources

By far my favorite source, one that I have browsed for hours, is the Library of Congress American Memory website: <http://rs6.loc.gov/amhome.html>. This has an enormous collection of early photographs and maps and the collection is constantly growing. All of the pictures on this page were found there.

For most of us, the images available on the Internet are of sufficient quality to use in a

family history but quality prints can be ordered from the Library of Congress for a very reasonable cost; the details are on the website.

It is now possible to search the web for images based on keywords. Use the Lycos search engine: [www.lycos.com/picturethis/](http://www.lycos.com/picturethis/) and you may select from 18 million



*Shoemakers demonstrating their craft in a photo taken between 1840 and 1860, exactly the time period that the author's gggrandfather was in this trade. Library of Congress Photo.*

## By the Way

From the "Indiana Weekly Messenger" (Indiana, Pa.), 26 September 1883, page 2:

In 1866 the best railroad time between New York and New Orleans was five days, and a passenger had to make nine changes, many of them long rides from depot to depot. In 1869 the time was reduced to four days; in 1873 to three and a half days, and in 1878 to three days and only one change. Now the time has been reduced to 58 hours

(Continued on page 10)



## Write Now? Yes, Right Now

— Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

When the subject of writing a family history comes up, people often say "I'm not at that stage yet; maybe later . . ." This is an unfortunate attitude. There are dozens of reason to begin immediately, but I'm going to present just five, in alphabetical order (but starting with P for variety), on why you should start today by writing individual family sketches for the research you've already completed. A family sketch would include a narrative, a genealogical summary, and full documentation.

### Pen Pal Prep

How often have you participated in an exchange similar to the following, either by e-mail or with envelope and stamp? "We may be cousins. I'm descended from a Simon Smithy, too. Where is yours from?" "He's from Summit County. Is that where your Simon is from?" "Yes. I have Mary Morgan for his wife. Who do you have?" "I have his wife as Jane Jones. There's even a marriage record." "Maybe he had two wives? I have a marriage record, too, and his will names wife Jane." "No, his will in 1787 names wife Mary. I have a copy." "Oh! My Simon Smithy died in 1903."

Wouldn't it be lovely (to quote a stage lyric) if in the first exchange you'd had a documented sketch for Simon Smithy to send to your almost-cousin, who also had a similar document to send to you? Wasted time is unproductive time.

### Question Quality

Once you've written a sketch, print it out, turn off the computer, and go find a comfy chair. Read it. Now read it again. This time, ask yourself "Is the quality of the research high enough to justify my conclusions?" Consider various aspects of quality. Did you study all persons of the surname (and collateral surnames) to be certain you haven't attached your ancestor to the wrong parent? Did you use a variety of sources? A conclusion based on a single census and a tombstone isn't a conclusion. It's a leap of faith.

I like to consider the situation backwards and say "If I had reason to believe this was incorrect, where would I look to prove it wrong?" If you haven't looked there yet, this would be a good time to do so.

From experience, I can say that it is very difficult to do a dispassionate, detached review for quality while you are in the midst of research or if you are not seeing every bit of evidence presented in a logical manner. (In

other words, the printed narrative, genealogical summary, documentation, and comfy chair are vital—just don't fall asleep.)

### Relaxing Reading

Genealogy is passé. What we do now is family history. We go beyond names, relationships, and documents to try and understand our ancestral families. When we write, we write family history. If you wait until you are "ready" to prepare your family history, you won't have time to do a lot of background reading. By writing your family history one family at a time, as you work on the research, you are more likely to get and give a complete picture of the family. And there's a bonus. The relaxing reading may suggest new research avenues to explore.

The title "relaxing reading" isn't a misnomer. (Yes, it's time for a comfy chair again.) I begin at home with my ancient set of Encyclopaedia Britannica for brief but scholarly articles about occupations, historical figures and events, religious movements, and urban maps.

Most genealogical library materials are non-circulating. We must use them at the library, with one eye on the clock. In contrast, most of the materials we use for family history background are circulating library books. You can take them home and read them at your leisure. They may be in the Youth section (for our children and grandchildren to use in school reports). Many are found in college libraries. This is good news, even if you don't live near a college, because many colleges participate in Interlibrary Loan programs.

### Secondhand Sources

Return to your printed sketch, but this time look only at the sources. Are they good enough? I'm not referring to format. Is the source you used good enough for you to rely on? I recently had to browse records in Ancestry World Tree to try and determine the REAL source for a precise birth date I was seeing on the Web. If accurate, it would blow away (in scholarly genealogical terms) a published European origin. I had been able to reduce my efforts to a couple of dozen entries by checking only those indicating there were notes or sources attached (thank you for those lovely icons). Entry after entry after entry indicated its source as "so-and-so's database." Not one had a REAL source attached. Obviously, I could put no faith in

the birth date.

What if your secondhand source is a compiled, published genealogy in either article or book format? Compiled genealogies aren't created equal, so it is your responsibility to include an evaluation in your source citation. Be specific. Is the author a respected genealogist? Does the work meet the suggestions given above for quality? Most importantly, is every fact documented?

### Tedious Tasks

Writing an entire family history all at once is no fun. It's tedious. Very tedious. Very, very tedious. As the editor of a scholarly genealogical journal, I can tell you that I spend an awful lot of my time on tedious tasks.

Tedious tasks include systematically checking that every fact has a source. Tedious tasks include finding a source when one is missing. (I'm considering a keystroke macro to type "needs cite" in bold red italic underline because I have to type that so often.) Tedious tasks include getting the publication information that you forgot to write down the first time or that wasn't on the title page you photocopied.

This is just a smattering of the reasons you should begin writing your family history—right now.

*Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of Producing a Quality Family History.*

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### Mesa Dweller Now on the Web

The newsletter is now available on our web site. Beginning with the March, 2003 issue. To view the newsletter does require the use of Adobe Acrobat Reader which is a free plug in. Check us out.



## Counties and Researchers

### OHIO



Greene, Holmes, Muskingham, Coshocton  
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### ILLINOIS



Alexander, Union, Jackson Counties:  
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### MISSOURI

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### Member Research Inquiry

We will be publishing in the newsletter the states and counties that our members are currently researching. We hope that this will aid in research exchanges and tips on which resources are available and more relevant and beneficial. Please return this form by mail at the address below or bring to one of the meeting for Rick Sheldon. You can include an email address if you want to be contacted by email. We will not publish your address in the newsletter unless specified

State	County	Comments:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Mesa County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1506  
Grand Junction, Colorado

### "Biography and Genealogy Master Index"

If you're searching for someone famous, or even semi-famous, in your family tree, "Biography and Genealogy Master Index" (BGMI) is the place to start. Indexing more than 12 million citations, compiled from more than 2,500 editions and volumes of approximately 1,500 current and retrospective sources, BGMI can lead you to important biographical information on individuals from around the world who are found in compilations such as:

- "Dictionary of Inventions and Discoveries"
- "International Medical Who's Who"
- "Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions"
- "Women in Public Office"
- "Who's Who among Black Americans"
- "Contemporary Authors. A bio-bibliographical guide to current writers in fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television, and other fields"
- "Contemporary Heroes and Heroines"
- "Women Public Speakers in the United States"
- "Who's Who in Art"
- "Who's Who of Nobel Prize Winners"
- "The World Almanac Biographical Dictionary"
- and over 1500 other sources

Each entry in the BGMI lists the biographical works that mention the individual in question. Researchers may obtain additional information by consulting these reference works (from which the BGMI index was created). Consult your local academic or research library for more information on where to find individual publications or search online catalogs of nearby libraries to locate them. A great place to start your search for libraries online is at: <http://www.libraryspot.com/libraries/>



# Genealogical Standards

## Guidelines For Using Records Repositories And Libraries

*Recommended by the National Genealogical Society*

Recognizing that how they use unique original records and fragile publications will affect other users, both current and future, family history researchers habitually—

- are courteous to research facility personnel and other researchers, and respect the staff's other daily tasks, not expecting the records custodian to listen to their family histories nor provide constant or immediate attention.
- dress appropriately, converse with others in a low voice, and supervise children appropriately.
- do their homework in advance, know what is available and what they need, and avoid ever asking for "everything" on their ancestors.
- use only designated work space areas and equipment, like readers and computers intended for patron use, respect off-limits areas, and ask for assistance if needed.
- treat original records at all times with great respect and work with only a few records at a time, recognizing that they are irreplaceable and that each user must help preserve them for future use.
- treat books with care, never forcing their spines, and handle photographs properly, preferably wearing archival gloves.
- never mark, mutilate, rearrange, relocate, or remove from the repository any original, printed, microform, or electronic document or artifact.
- use only procedures prescribed by the repository for noting corrections to any errors or omissions found in published works, never marking the work itself.
- keep note-taking paper or other objects from covering records or books, and avoid placing any pressure upon them, particularly with a pencil or pen.
- use only the method specifically designated for identifying records for duplication, avoiding use of paper clips, adhesive notes, or other means not approved by the facility.
- return volumes and files only to locations designated for that purpose.
- before departure, thank the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.
- follow the rules of the records repository without protest, even if they have changed since a previous visit or differ from those of another facility.

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## Finally, Someone to Blame.....

It has been settled. It's not my fault. All of my quirks, faults and shortcomings are a product of my deviant ancestry.

My wife likes to point out all of the unusual marriages that have taken place in both our families. You know the ones, where first or second cousins marry or brothers of one family marry sisters of another, then somewhere down the line their offspring also marry.

It's a wonder that I walk upright.

I'm sure that even my wife and I are related somewhere in the past. I know that her families and mine were in the same locales way to often for my comfort.

And it's not just me, my brothers and sister are pretty weird also. I mean I look at some of the things they do or have done and really wonder which part of the family they come from, because it can't be my branch of the family.

Plus, I have met some way distant relatives and they are pretty strange too, in fact some of them make me look normal, so it has to be the genes.

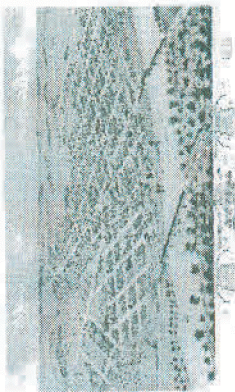
So you see, I can attribute all of my quirks and weird behavioral patterns back on my ancestry. It's not my fault, I never had a chance..... Editor



## Illustrating

*(Continued from page 6)*

images. This is not as good as it sounds. A picture or illustration is included and indexed by computer and only works on the file name of the originator. You may want to find pictures of a small town



Attica, Indiana in 1869. This is about 17 years before the author's family was there but is still an attractive addition to the family history. Both bridges were destroyed in a major tornado in 1886. Today, the piers of the old bridges are still there.

but every image which has a file name mentioning that word will be offered. This may include even the name of a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) which will mean that every image of every customer is offered to you; this makes image selection almost impossible. Lycos has recently added 40,000 images in an area that they call their Now & Then Image Gallery. It is easy to search and images are generally very good but I found nothing to help me personally. These images have also appeared on a couple of CD-ROM collections that I own. It is now possible to buy collections of 30,000, 80,000, even 150,000 images on CD collections for modest prices. These may have what you want but the image resolution is often limited on the majority of pictures. If they do not call the images High Resolution on the

box, you can bet they are of marginal quality, even for a limited print family history.

*This article originally appeared in the January/February 1999 issue of Family Chronicle*



The railroads around Ionia, Michigan in 1876, the exact year the author's grandfather worked for the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan RR in that city as a bookkeeper. Library of Congress Map.