



Genealogy is like playing hide and seek:
They hide... I seek!

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Genealogists are time
unravelers.

Magic: Faded Census Records to Re-Appear

This is about as close to magic as I can imagine. Picture in your mind, original census pages that have faded so badly that the enumerator's handwriting is no longer visible. I am not talking about ink that has faded a bit. In this case, the ink is gone, not even visible on the page. All you can see is the page as it was printed and given to the enumerators (census takers) with the pre-printed text and boxes. These pages look as if they were never filled out, and yet you know they were.

Now, add in a mix of digital photography and different lights. Shake well with some computer enhancements. The result? Readable images!

If this isn't magic, I don't know what is.

Jack Reese at The Generations Network started working through the 1851 Manchester, England, census. He kept finding himself staring at a bunch of nothing. Ink had faded. Water damage left mold that was eating away at what was left of the paper. Some pages were just fragments. Others? Completely blank.

For Jack, it was a fun problem. After all, he is an engineer with two

areas of expertise: computer imaging and family history.

He started with a Nikon camera, disassembled it, replaced filters, and added specialized lenses. Next he built a box, "complete light-controlled enclosure that we could house our custom lights and camera in." He then used a mix of light sources: infrared, ultraviolet, fluorescent, incandescent, and more.

You can see magician Jack's results on the Ancestry Magazine's web site at:

<http://www.ancestrymagazine.com/2009/04/genea-Logic/preserving-genealogical-records>.

The site includes sample before-and-after images of the pages. The results are amazing.

For the next few months, the camera will prove its mettle at The National Archives in London, capturing images of that 1851 Manchester census. Once snapped, keyed, and indexed, pages containing some 200,000+ names that might have been lost will be available at your fingertips on Ancestry.com.

Posted by Dick Eastman on 22 April, 2009, Article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com> Submitted by Dennis Jenkins

MESA DWELLERS

Biography of Board and Committee Members of Mesa County Genealogical Society



The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Objectives:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
2. To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
3. To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.
4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Whitman Education Center, 248 South Fourth Street, at 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm -2pm.

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Iris Krogh
Secretary	Carole Moritz
Treasurer	Jill Berthod

Board Members

Kathie Vlahos	3 year Term 2008-2009-2010
Gena King	2007-2008-2009
Ron Knapp	2009-2010-2011

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Temporary Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Chair-person	Donna Jackson

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members). Those with unpaid dues after April 30th of the membership year will not receive the newsletter

Contributions to the *Mesa Dwellers* are appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15). Send to: Kathie Vlahos at: mottzart2b@montrose.net or telephone: 970-249-2036.

June – September 2009 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 1 June Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – *Migration Routes Study Group* will present their findings.
- 24 June Wednesday Noon Meeting: Discussion of *FamilySearch.net*. including the old site, Pilot site and upcoming new FamilySearch site.
- 9 July Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – Annual Share Session (Bring an heirloom, artifact, bible, photo, brick wall, success story, etc. to show and tell).
- 22 July Wednesday Noon Meeting: Revisit a couple of sites we have looked at in the past couple of years. Possible ones we will consider at the meeting: Genealogy Guys, RootsTelevision, GenealogyBank, Newseum.com, DeadFred, RAGK, Translation sites, Cyndi's List, Archives.gov, Linkpendium.com, RootsWeb.com, USGenWeb.org, etc.
- 13 August Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – Annual Pot Luck Picnic. Possible site: Pavilion next to the Family History Center – come early and use the FHC before the Pot Luck. They are open from 10 am to 7 pm on Thursday.
- 26 August Wednesday Noon Meeting: Using a Professional Genealogist – We will look at a couple of websites: Association of Professional Genealogists (www.apgen.org), www.progenealogist.com. Bring any experiences that you have had hiring a researcher.
- 10 September Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – Lois Dunn – *Handwriting analysis*. We need handwriting samples from one of your ancestors and a sample of your own so that we can give these to Lois a few weeks prior to the meeting.
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President's Message

I just got back from my Spring trip to Minnesota. One of the things I always do when I am back in Staples, Minnesota, is visit as many relatives in the area as possible. I made contact for the first time with my mother's 1st cousin (87) in Cambridge, MN.

She gave me a lot of information I didn't have and I will be getting in touch with one of her daughters who is interested in family history research. I keep adding to my list of distant cousins.

Something I always do in Staples, is spend time looking through the old issues of the *Staples World*. (Hard copies at both the Public Library and the *Staples World* office). If I am at the Minnesota Historical Society I am able to access a complete set of the *Staples World* on microfilm.

What I love about small town newspapers is the happenings around town and the rural news items with gossip about the health of the people living there, their visits to nearby neighbors, celebrations, trips, and other events. I suggest you all attempt to find old newspapers with information about your ancestors.

I hope you have been enjoying the Photos/Stories submitted by MCGS Members. Kathie would like to get all members to turn in photos or stories of their ancestors to be published in the *Mesa Dwellers*.

Here is another plug for our September 10, 2009 program on *Handwriting Analysis* to be presented by Lois Dunn. Please get your handwriting samples to me of Donna Jackson (one from your ancestor and another from yourself, a sibling or parent) so I can give them to Louis in advance of the program. She will do an analysis of the two and compare them. I am thinking of using samples of the handwriting of my mother and her mother. Get in touch with me at jenkinsdennisr1@yahoo.com or 970-434-3409.

Dennis Jenkins

Research Recommendations: Wayback Machine

By Michael J. Leclerc

If you hear "Wayback Machine" and immediately start thinking of Mr. Peabody and his boy Sherman, you are definitely in my age bracket (and if you don't know who they are, you can find out at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Peabody or watch Peabody and Sherman on YouTube). However, the Wayback Machine is also a valuable internet resource that allows you to see websites as they used to appear.

The Wayback Machine is run by the internet Archive, a nonprofit founded to preserve access to digital materials. You can use it to see websites as they were on a specific date. This can be especially helpful if you are looking for a website that has since disappeared, or changed URLs, and you can no longer find it. Search the Wayback Machine for the URL, and it will return a list of dates on which pages were archived. By looking at those pages, you might be able to find keywords that will help you find a newer version of the site (or you might be able to see the pages as they originally appeared and get the information as you saw it previously).

It is important to note that not all sites are archived by the Wayback Machine. For example, site owners can block the Wayback Machine from accessing their site. You can search the Wayback Machine at www.archive.org/web/web.php.

For a blast from the past, look at these popular genealogy websites as they used to appear:

The first NEHGS website in November 1996

<http://web.archive.org/web/19961112014155/http://nehgs.org/>

Ancestry.com in January 1998

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990208003330/http://ancestry.com/>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter in August 2003

<http://web.archive.org/web/2003076031008/www.eogn.com/home/>

FamilySearch.org in May 1999

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990508210319/http://www.familysearch.org/>

National Archives and Records Administration in January 1999

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990125091028/http://nara.gov/>

Vol. 11, No. 14, Whole #421, April 8, 2009, enews, Edited by Michael J. Leclerc and Valerie Beaudrault. Submitted by Jo Culberson, May 2009

Websites of Interest

Denmark

Is anyone interested in Danish research? If so, you might want to explore a free and interesting Internet site associated with the Danish State Archives. A good place to start is here: http://www.ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm. Within the so-called Danish Demographic Database are several searchable databases including Censuses, Emigrants, Immigrants, and "Other Sources". Some of the information is in Danish, but there are a number of pages that have been translated into English. In order to do a specific person census search, it is helpful, but not necessary, to know the Amt (County), Herred (District), and Sogne (Parish) that the individual lived in. The Emigrants database can also be helpful in spotting ancestors who left Denmark.

Using this site, I was able to develop some further information about my wife's great-grandfather. Her grandfather emigrated from Demark as a young man in 1889. I was able to find him with parents and siblings in the 1880 Danish Census.

We are all slowed down by language differences. If you are working with documents in a different language, you can usually find helpful information at the <http://www.familysearch.org> site. When you get to the Home Page, simply click on "Research Helps" at the top of the page, then "Articles". Using Demark as a example, click on the "D" and then "Danish Genealogical Word List". What comes up is an abbreviated Danish-English dictionary that can be used, for example, to help define the occupation you learn from the above census listings. It's also worth noting that under "Research Helps", there is also a header "Guidance" as well as the "Articles" that you click on. If you choose this option, you can get to a Research Outline for a particular place and time. This may be helpful in suggesting a research strategy for where to look for further records. Note too, that this technique works for most of the major countries and languages, not just Denmark and Danish.

Submitted by Larry Eucher, May 2009

If any of your roots are in Illinois, here are a few good websites to check into:

Genealogy online, Historical Cook County, Illinois Vital Records, David Orr, Cook County Clerk

This site is for online birth, marriage and death certificates; www.cookcountygenealogy.com

This historical record data base is an endeavor for the Cook County Clerk's office. More than 6 millions of the 8 million genealogy records are already searchable, and they will continue to add more as they bring their database up to date. Records are added to the data base frequently, so if your record does not appear, check back again.

The Chicago Fire of October 8, 1871 destroyed all Cook County vital records prior to that date. After some rebuilding, record keeping resumed in 1872.

Under Illinois law, genealogical viral records are defined as:

Birth Certificates that are 75 years and older, (before today's date in 1934)

Marriage certificates that are 50 years and older, (before today's date in 1959)

Death certificates that are 20 years and older, (before today's date in 1989)

Dorothy Brown Clerk of the Circuit Clerk, Cook County, Illinois

This website brings you to the main Circuit Clerk page, but if you go to the Records/Archives , there are many items that you can look up which is in their archival holdings; www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

Click on Records/Archives, then click on Archives, this brings you to the Records and Archives, Archives, department. You can then click on the list of different holdings that you may be interested in. They are: Declarations of Intent, Archives Advisory Board, Famous Cases On-Line, Requesting Archives Searches and Archives Holdings. These are all in Cook County only.

Illinois State Archives – Illinois Regional Archives Depository System

This site is for all Counties of Illinois and they have a variety of information; Death and Marriage Indexes, etc; www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/irad/iradhome.html

Besides the Statewide Marriage and Death indexes, they have many other holdings per County; you can call or write the Depository and request a search for the documents. Some of these holdings are:

Land deeds, Mortgage, and Tax sales records, Assessor's and Collectors Tax Books, Naturalization records, including declarations of intent, Probate records, Wills, Will records, Case files, Coroner's inquest records and inquest files.

Submitted by Kathie Vlahos, May 2009