



Isn't Genealogy fun? The Answer to one Problem leads to two more!

A baby
is a new
acorn
in the family tree.

Volume 29, Issue 3
September 2009

New at the Family History Library by Michael J. Leclerc

I have just returned from a ten-day trip, first participating in the Southern California Jamboree and second, spending a week researching at the Family History Library. The weekend in Burbank was very hectic. The conference was very successful, bringing in about 1,500 people. After leaving Burbank I spent a week in Salt Lake City researching my book on the Franklin family. It was very productive, but quite chaotic for a bit due to a major change in the Family History Library. FHL is in the process of replacing all of the old microfilm reader-printers. In fact, just a few days before my arrival, almost all of the machines on the U.S.-Canada floor had been removed, and new microfilm scanners put in their place. The new scanners replace not only the reader-printers, but the old scanners that used to be there. One major improvement is that the scanners do not require you to sign up for a one-hour block of time. You now go to the copy area, hop on a machine, scan or print, and hop off again, just like you used to do with the reader-printers. The new scanners handle both printing and scanning electronic images. You choose when scanning whether you wish to print the image or save it to the hard drive or a flash drive. One drawback is that you may not be able to save directly to some flash drives. You must first save the file onto the hard drive, and then copy the files to your flash drive. Although it was possible for me to save files directly to my flash drive, I chose to save them first to the hard drive. In addition to scanning a image of the record, I scanned the cover of the volume, the title card showing me what item number it appeared on the film, and the film number that appears at the start of every microfilm. I then opened a window for my flash drive, created a new file and named it with a

description of the record (such as Luther Homes Death Record), then dragged the appropriate files off of the hard drive and onto my flash drive. This solves two problems. I did not have to rename each file (necessary because by default the files are automatically named with a scan number, e.g. scan123.jpg). In addition, the other scans mean that when I get home I don't need to remember the film and item number, or even the volume and page number for the original record. I have all the information recorded.

One thing that takes major getting used to is that the new machines are entirely software driven. If you look on the scanner for buttons to forward or advance the film, you won't find them. Everything is run through the desktop. More than two dozen icons on the screen mean it can be a bit confusing as you get used to the process. Fortunately, the library has printed handouts to help you with the process.

Because the machines were brand new to everyone when I was there, even the staff and missionaries were getting used to them. In some ways it was interesting as we all practiced and learned together how to make things work the way we wanted them to. By the end of the week, it was much easier for everyone, but if you are planning a trip to the FHL in the near future, please remember that everyone is learning the new machines, and be tolerant as people try to assist you. The result is well worthwhile. As I reviewed my images from the trip over the last few days, they are crisp and clear and very easy to use. Despite the learning curve, these machines are a worthwhile investment by the library.

*2009, NEHGS enews, Edited by Michael J. Leclerc.
Submitted by Jo Culberson, August 2009*

MESA DWELLERS

In Memoriam

Betty Ann (Lutz) Morse
April 27, 1929 – July 18, 2009



Local historian and Colorado pioneer, Betty Ann (Lutz) Morse, died July 2009 after a long battle with cancer. Betty Ann was born in Grand Junction April 27, 1929 to Mary and John Lutz. The Lutz family came to the Grand Valley

in 1895 and were pioneering homesteaders on Glade Park.

Mary and John raised six girls who remained close throughout their entire lives and all were noted as hardworking and incredibly strong women. Betty Ann graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1947. She married Sgt. Robert Russel Mills on June 15, 1947; he died in service to his country on September 15, 1950. To this union one daughter, Joann Mills was born. She survives. Betty Ann then married William L. Morse in 1953, and together they raised three children in the Grand Junction area. This 56 year union produced a loving family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, all who cherished Betty Ann greatly. Betty Ann was instrumental in registering the Coates Creek School House as a National Historical Site and the founding of the Coates Creek School Restoration Project. She archived volumes of early history and valuable information on the Glade Park and Grand Junction areas during the pioneering years. She was a avid gardener – her garden was noted as a local point of interest.

Betty Ann is survived by her loving husband, William: her children, Joann Mills, Tim Morse and Nancy Morse; two sisters, Rose Pattee and Theo Mills; two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Betty Ann's life touched many people and she will be greatly missed.

A memorial service to celebrate Betty Ann's life will be held Saturday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. at the Callahan-Edfast Mortuary chapel with Reverend John Foreman officiating. Private burial was held in Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado, 3090 B North 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO. 81506.

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. *Starting with the Oct. 8th meeting, MCGS meetings will be in the Cross Orchards – Orchards View Room, 3073 F Road, 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	<u>3 year Term</u>
Gena King	2008-2009-2010
Ron Knapp	2007-2008-2009
	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 encouraged and 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: [REDACTED] or telephone: [REDACTED]

September - November 2009 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 0 Sept. Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – Lois Dunn will present *Handwriting Analysis*. She will analyze handwriting examples that we gave to her in advance.
- 23 Sept. Wednesday Noon Meeting: We will look at *Heritage Quest – U. S. Serial Set* and other websites with information about the U.S. Congressional Serial Set. Meeting will be held at the Whitman Building.
- 8 Oct. Thursday Evening Meeting: & p.m. – Undetermined: Possible speaker Dave Fishell or a Share Session. Meeting will be held at Cross Orchards.
- 28 Oct. Wednesday Noon Meeting: We will have an open topic session. Members can share their research or look at any website.
- 12 Nov. Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. – Undetermined: Possible speaker Dave Fishell or a share session. Meeting will be held at Cross Orchards.
- Note: Remember that we will not have the Wednesday Noon Meetings in November and December.
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President's Message

I will be assigning a Nominating Committee in September to work on getting a slate of Officers ready for our February 11, 2010 election meeting. I am hoping that you will all consider serving as an officer of committee member for next year.

I recently saw a newsletter/blog describing 101 websites where you can do free research. Have you ever visited the About.com website which has many topics including one for Genealogy, <http://genealogy.about.com/>? The Genealogy topic is managed by Kimberly Powell and you can sign up to receive her newsletter or blog at <http://genealogy.about.com/>, you will find 4 tabs, *Genealogy*, *Learn How*, *Search Online* and *Share & Preserve*.

Under the *Genealogy* tab you can find the article "101 Web sites Where You Can Trace Your Family Tree For Free". You can go right to the article by typing in the following url address: <http://genealogy.about.com/b/2009/08/06/101-web-sites-where-you-can-trace-your-family-tree-for-free.htm>. Since that is a rather long address, you can also navigate to it by going to <http://genealogy.about.com/b/>, then scroll down to Kimberly's Thursday August 6, 2009 entry. Once you get to the article, you can check out some of these free sites.

Hopefully you will see a few new websites that you have not used before or recently. Keep in mind that many of these sites often add new databases. I would also like to add a few that Kimberly did not include. On Genealogybank.com, Ancestry.com, Worldvitalrecords.com, Rootweb.com and Familysearch.org, you can access the Social Security Death Index for free. You will also find that a few more databases are free on Ancestry.com as well. I also noted that they left off one of my favorite free sites, the Minnesota Historical Society website: [Http://mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org), that has Minnesota birth and death indexes. Good luck in your "Free" research.

Dennis Jenkins

Websites of Interest

Website to the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection

<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.or/default/skins/colorado/client.asp?skin=colorado&aw=1249067605638&appname=2>

The Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC), currently includes 147 newspapers published in Colorado from 1859 to 1923, CHNC contains over 477,000 digitized pages and is a joint endeavor of the Colorado State Library, the Colorado Historical Society, and generous donors throughout the State. You can "Browse" by publication, then the year, month and day, or "Search" newspapers in entirety or for articles, pictures or advertisements only.

Submitted by Kathie Vlahos, August 2009

Ohio County Records Online

The Summer 2009 issue of *Ohio Genealogy News* contains an article about the efforts of many county governments in Ohio to digitize their records and make them available on the Internet. Listed here are the Ohio counties which have completed this process on at least some of their records. You can follow the links below to check on whether time periods you are interested in have been uploaded. In some cases, images are available; but in others only indexes appear.

Butler County: 1834 Property Reappraisals, www.butlercountyohio.org/records > Archives > McBride

Cuyahoga County: Deeds 1810, <http://recorder.cuyahogacounty.us>; Marriage License Index 1810-1998
<http://probate.cuyahogacounty.us/ml>

Lorain County: Births and Deaths (1867-1908), Tax Duplicates (1824-1917), www.lcrecordscenter.com/records-search

Madison County: Births, Deaths, Estates, Marriages, Name Changes, <http://12.32.69.179>

Stark County: Land Records, Plat Maps and Naturalizations, www.co.stark.oh.us > Recorder > Archive Search

Summit County: Naturalizations, 1850-1991, www.cpcclerk.co.summit.oh.us > Naturalization Records > Agree

Wood County: Recorder's Office Indexes 1821, <http://recorder.co.wood.oh.us/index.htm>

More detailed information on the websites and conducting searches is available in the magazine, which I have donated to the MCGS Library Collection.

Submitted by Jo Culbertson, August 2009

Civil War Records Researcher

While trolling the net recently, I stumbled on a wonderful resource for those of us who don't have easy access to NARA records:

Hans K. Kirsch (Historian, B.A.)

The Confederate War Department

<http://www.csawardept.com>

I submitted a name, birth/death dates and year of enlistment to Mr. Kirsch. He got back to me the very next day saying he found the man, and provided a brief description of the information available. His product is digital images on CD, for which he charges by the page, plus a small fee for shipping and handling. I ordered a packet that was 5 or 6 pages plus cover, for \$12.50 and received the CD in a week.

Submitted by Jo Culbertson, August 2009

Mesa County Genealogical Society Member Photo



John Wesley Boyles

This is a photo of Jan Wilson's maternal and paternal great grandfather, John Wesley Boyles. It is dated about 1890 to 1900. Jan does not know who the two ladies are, but thinks they are related, possibly sisters.

John Wesley was Jan's great grandfather on her mother's side (he was Jan's grandmother's father). John's first wife died and he then remarried Ida Mae Dearman from Jan's father's side and had four more children.

Jan is researching the surnames of: Boyles, Thead Wilson and Ramberg.

Please send any non-copyrighted photographs of family members that are interesting, funny or you have questions about to Kathie Vlahos for future publication in the MCGS Newsletter. Kathie's address: 11565 6250 Rd., Montrose, Co., 81401 or [redacted] net. Please include your name, name of person in photo, place and year the photo was taken (if you have that information) and surnames that you are researching.

Research Recommendation: Historical Currency Conversion By Michael J. Leclerc

When researchers are dealing with old land and estate records, I am often asked "How much would that be worth today?" While Yahoo and other currency calculators are great at modern money, they often do not include the ability to convert values through time. One great website is called "Historical Currency Conversions". This website, available at: <http://futureboy.homeip.net/fsp/dollar.fsp>, is capable of converting many different kinds of currency to today's dollars. Here you can convert dollars, cents, pounds, guineas, sovereigns, merk, mark, crowns, florins, shillings, groats, pence, and farthings into today's money.

I did a quick search and discovered that a dollar from the year my grandfather was born (1912), had the same buying power as \$21.35 today. That same dollar from the year my father was born (1939) has the buying power of \$15.34 today, and the dollar from the year I was born (I'm not telling) has the buying power of \$6.88.

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