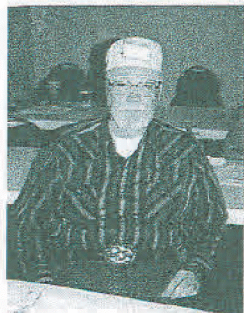


MESA DWELLERS

Robert Cress – Research Director



Most of us know him as "Bob", Research Director for Mesa County Genealogical Society. A group of his friends at "Slab City" near Niland, California where he spends the winter months in his RV call him "Chili Bob", for the great chili he makes. Officially, he is Robert Woodrow Wilson Cress, Jr.

He was born to Robert Woodrow Wilson Cress, Sr., and Letha May (Poer) Cress February 12, [redacted] in Middleton, Ohio. Bob is the oldest of five children, 3 boys

and 2 girls, all raised in Columbus, Ohio. As a teenager, Bob had a few odd jobs, one as a carryout boy at a grocery store, another, working for Montgomery Wards. While at Montgomery Wards, he took care of changing out the "dummies" in the store widows and other misc. jobs. His favorite job was as a dishwasher at a real fancy restaurant in Nashville, Indiana, until his boss caught him one night with half a blueberry pie and a pint of ice cream. His boss told him, "I can't afford you" and was fired.

When Bob was 18, he and a buddy went to join the Navy, (Bob's father was a Navy man), but when they got to the Navy recruiters they were out to lunch. The Army recruiter happened to be right next door to the Navy and told them to come on over and he would take care of them. So, on March 30, 1954, Bob joined the U.S. Army and completed basic training at Camp Chaffee in Arkansas, (today it is Ft. Chaffee). He was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland for Ammunition Specialist School. Bob was then sent to Korea and served 16 months, after which he was sent back home and assigned to Headquarters 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia. Bob was later transferred to 820th Ordnance Co. (Harmony Church), Fort Benning.

September [redacted] while Bob was stationed at Fort Benning, he met Joyce Lynn, she was working at Lee's Drug Store in town. It was love at first sight, and within three months they were married on December 23, [redacted] in the Army Chapel, Joyce was 16 years old and Bob was 20.

After four years in the Army, he was discharged and in April [redacted] he joined the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Grand Forks, AFB, North Dakota, 478th Fighter Group. Grant Forks was a new Air Force Base and Bob was the 46th man to sign in. In [redacted] he was sent to Lowery AFB in Denver, Colorado for Disaster Control Instructor school for 46 days and then returned to his unit in North Dakota. In 1960 he went to Indian Head, Maryland for Explosive Ordnance School and returned to his unit back in North Dakota. In 1961, Bob's next assignment was to the 51st Material Squadron in the ammunition supply. Bob's last assignment was to 1608th Air Transport Wing, 1608th Supply Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina, where he ran the Ammunition Dump until being discharged from the U.S. Air Force in [redacted]

By 1964 Bob and Joyce had four children, three boys and one girl. In [redacted] Bob told Joyce, "we are moving", she asked, "where to this time?" Bob replied, "Colorado". They packed up everything they owned in an 18 foot trailer and drove a VW bus to Denver. Bob worked for Samsonite briefly and was laid off, then went to apply for another job at Coor's Brewery in Golden, Colorado and was hired, working there for 27 years.

In 1990, Bob and Joyce move to Grand Junction and Bob joined Mesa County Genealogical Society in 1992. After [redacted] years of marriage, Joyce passed away in March of 2005.

Bob got interested in genealogy after meeting another "Cress" (not a direct line) while living in Denver. Name's Bob is researching: Cress, Poer, Lynn, Spivey and Cason

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

Standing Committee Chair-persons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Membership-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 written or typed 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]

December 2009 – April 2010 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 10 Dec. 2009 Thursday Luncheon Meeting: 11:30 a.m. – Annual Christmas pot luck meeting at Carole Moritz's home. (See page 1 for directions and reservations)
- 14 Jan. 2010 Thursday Evening meeting: 7:00 p.m. – Dave Fishell will present a slide show of early Grand Junction.
- 27 Jan. 2010 Wednesday Noon Meeting: We will look at using *Facebook.com*, *my family.com*, and other websites to share your family history information with your family and cousins.
- 11 Feb. 2010 Thursday Evening Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – Election meeting, *Share old photos and Discuss How You Preserve Your Old Photos and Documents*.
- 24 Feb. 2010 Wednesday Noon Meeting: Topic: Looking at State Censuses on *Ancestry.com* and in *The Source*. Meeting will be held at Cross Orchards.
- 17 Apr. 2010 Annual Family History Fair – plan to attend and help at the MCGS Booth.
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President's Message

You will notice a 2010 Dues Notice is in this issue so that you can send it in before the March 2010 newsletter.

Please note that we will be having our regular meeting (Dec. 10th) again this year at Carole Moritz's home. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. and we will have the potluck lunch at Noon. We had a very good turnout last year and I hope we get an even better turnout this time.

In September the Nominating Committee began their search for members willing to serve the society for next year. They have been contacting all the members and as I hear they have not been getting a positive response. I do hope you will all consider serving as a officer or member of the Board as we need you to step forward and be involved in the Society.

Put April 17, 2010 on your calendar for the next Family History Fair to be held at the LDS Stake on Melody Lane and Orchard Avenue. Note that the Society will also need help at the booth we will have at the Fair.

At recent meetings, members have shared their experiences using Find A Grave (www.findagrave.com) in their research. Even if you have gone to this site in the past, you might want to try it out again. By just searching all cemeteries in a county, you might be surprised what they have on the site these days.

Another site that many members including myself have had success at is the Washington State Library – Ask a Librarian (http://www.sos.wa.gov/libraryask_form.aspx) I was able to get 3 obituaries from Tacoma newspapers at no charge. With some creativity on a Google Search, you might find other libraries around the country that offer free or small obituary searches. I recently got an obituary from Framingham, Massachusetts that cost \$1.00.

I am sure that Kathie will be pleased to receive any photos, queries or other submissions you might want to have included in the next issue of the *Mesa Dwellers*.

Dennis Jenkins

See page 9 for information on the Washington State Library Website

Happenings at the MCGS Evening Meeting

Our September 10, 2009 7:00 p.m. meeting was a very interesting one, the guest speaker, Lois Dunn, a Certified Master Graphoanalysts, (handwriting analysis) gave a handwriting analysis presentation of her skills by analyzing the handwriting examples of member's relatives and the member's own handwriting, (example: mother and daughter's handwriting). Lois was able to tell the member a little about the personality of the person by examining several different factors of the handwriting, such as the boldness or lack of how it was written, the slant, spacing, looping of the letters and crossing of T's. These are just a few examples of how Lois was able to get a feel of what that person's personality was like. After Lois's talk, several members stated that she "hit the nail on the head" in describing their relative's personalities.

Lois started her career in 1982, she took a three year course in Handwriting Analysis at the International Graphoanalysis Society in Chicago, Illinois by correspondence. She went back to Chicago every year for training and she is now a Certified Master Graphoanalysis. She has taken several classes at Mesa State College in Grand Junction on and off during the years and now has her master's degree. Lois has worked in the field for 26 years, working for individuals and attorneys on fraud cases, etc. Lois has not been as active in her career the last two years as she has been pursuing different avenues.

Below is a picture and handwriting example that Carole Moritz had submitted to Lois of her great-grandmother, Huldah (Stone) Burbank's Journal written Saturday, March 28, 1885:



What Lois analyzed for Huldah: Feeling irritable, some anger, some separation (separation of words – sometimes letters within words).

She tended to look at the big picture rather than details. Though quick to feel her emotions, she tried to hide her true feelings from others. She was likely to be hard on herself.

She tried to be tactful and was quite good at expressing herself in writing and speaking. When pushed too far she could take a strong stand, and did not like to be bossed around.

What Lois analyzed for Carole: Direct in expression, importance of family in your life, enthusiastic and enjoying planning for the future or maybe daydreaming. Friendly and enjoying the company of a variety of friends and acquaintances.

Mesa County Genealogical Society Member Photo



This 1900-1901 photo was taken of the Samuel Smith farm house near Pawnee Station, Bourbon County, Kansas.

Persons believed to be in this photo are given from left to right:

Mrs. Strosnider, Catherine (Clemans) Smith, Mary (Kline) Clemans, next two ladies possibly Strosniders, women holding child, Elizabeth (Smith) Strosnider, the man next to horses is Elizabeth's husband, William E. Strosnider, man with beard, is Catherine's husband, Samuel Jackson Smith, Jr., and the man on the far right is brother of William Strosnider and possible husband to the women on far left holding baby, the four children may be theirs also.

It is possible that they had just arrived in the covered wagon shown in the photo.



This 2007 photo of the same house taken by Dennis Jenkins May 16, 2007

Samuel Jackson Smith, born 27 August 1838 in Illinois, died 19 September 1928 in Bourbon County, Kansas.

Catherine "Kate" (Clemens) Smith, born 6 October 1840 in Green County, Wisconsin, died 2 May 1920 in Bourbon County, Kansas. They were married 17 October 1857 in Spring Grove Township, Green County, Wisconsin.

William E. Strosnider, born November 1869 in Indiana, died 1938 possibly in Kansas.

Mary Elizabeth (Smith) Strosnider, born 27 August 1860 in Spring Grove Township, Green County, Wisconsin, died 20 January 1852 possibly in Kansas. They were married about 1896 in Kansas.

Photos submitted by Dennis Jenkins, December 2009

Correction for the September MCGS Newsletter on Member Photo Jan Wilson's Maternal and Paternal great-grandfather:

John Wesley Boyles first wife, Sarah Ann (Linton) died in 1913. One of their Children, Rosie Mae Boyles was Jan's grandmother on her mother's side. John then married again, to Ida Mae Dearman in 1916 and together they had 4 children. One was Jan's father. Thus, John Boyles is her maternal and paternal great-grandfather.

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: [redacted] Montrose, Co., 81401 or [redacted] et. 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.