

**I know no way of judging of the future but by the past. Henry Patrick**

A will  
is a  
dead giveaway

Volume 33 Issue 2

June 2013

## Presidents Message – A Trip to German Ancestral Villages

In my message, I usually like to talk about research options on the internet as well as what is not there. This message is no different.

As I have researched my ancestors, I usually attempt to visit the States, Counties, cities and townships that they lived in. Most of the time I find records and information that is not available on the internet. What I really like to do is look at small town newspapers for obituaries and articles about my ancestors and their families. Though I have occasionally found newspaper items on the internet, I have found much more by going to the places where the newspapers were published. I have also found more information by talking to the people there.

It has always been my dream to visit the ancestral villages of my immigrant ancestors. I finally got the chance to do this in April, 2013 when I took a trip to Germany. I took a private tour using European Focus, Inc. with James Derheim as my guide. Information can be found at [www.europeanfocus.com](http://www.europeanfocus.com)

On my mother's side, her grandparents on her father's side came from Germany in 1846 and 1856. The Rühlings came from Thuringia into New York in 1846 and the Scharfs came from the Rheinland in 1856 into New Orleans. They both ended up near New Prague in Scott County, Minnesota in 1856 buying land from the United States General Land Office using Military Bounty Warrants.

Before taking my trip to Germany, I was able to locate a number of ancestral villages and able to determine the parishes that they were associated with. That is often the most difficult thing to determine.

In my case, I had information that my Scharfs were in Hasselbach, Weilburg, Hesse, Prussia (Germany) in the 1700's and one of them moved to Dreibaumen, Hückeswagen, Rhineland, Prussia (Germany) before 1800. My immigrant Scharfs came from there to America.

My Ruehlings emmigrated from Fretterode, Hanstein-Rusteberg, Eichsfeld, Prussia (Germany). Andreas Rühling was born in Fretterode, while his wife Fredericka (Merker) Rühling was born 10 miles away in Gross Scheen, Göttingen, Hannover, Germany - presently located in the German State of Niedersachsen. I was able to meet 5th, 6th and 7th cousins in both Gross Schneen and Fretterode.

In this issue of the *Mesa Dwellers*, I have included photos of some of the churches I visited while in Germany. I will also be giving two power point like presentations in September including many more photos and the results of my trip. I plan to talk about the Scharf, Völpel, Bever and related families from the Hasselbach and Hückeswagen areas at the September 12th Thursday evening meeting and will be talking about the Rühling and Merker families from the Fretterode, Gross Scheen and Reckershausen areas at the September 25th Wednesday Noon meeting.

*Continued on page 3*



# MESA DWELLERS

## In Memoriam

### Merrill James (Lot) Robinson

July 6, 1929 – February 20, 2013



Merrill James (Lot) Robinson passed away peacefully at home on February 20, 2013. He was born in American Fork, Utah on July 6, 1929 to Lot and Lucille Robinson, the youngest of eight children. After serving his country in the Navy, he

worked for the Curry County Road Department in Gold Beach, the Davenport Ranch in Paonia, CO and settled in Fruita where he managed the LDS church farm until his retirement. After retiring, he would winter in Arizona with Evaline, his wife of 59 years, and was always happy to have family visit. Merrill fulfilled his calling as a Bishop of Fruita 1<sup>st</sup> Ward for 5 ½ years. We will remember the hug, handshake, smile or piece of candy he always offered. He is survived by his wife, Evaline; children, Merrilee (Leonard) Wendel of Alpine, UT, James (Colleen) Robinson of Alpine, UT, Brent (Coila) Robinson of Bountiful, UT, Gershawn (Alan) Delimont of Lehi, UT, Lot (Linda) Robinson of Grand Junction and Robert (Anne) Thompson of Fruita; 22 grandchildren; and 42 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Terry Robinson. A viewing will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 23, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2949 Hwy 50, Grand Junction. Services will follow at 11 a.m. with burial in New Elmwood Cemetery in Fruita, CO. Rest in peace – we will miss you, until we meet again.

*Published in The Daily Sentinel, February 23, 2013, Grand Junction, CO.*

A warm welcome our 2013 new members:

Alana Foster, Marilyn Grafe, Stella & Keith Ledbetter, Wally Taylor, Ingrid & Darrell Sartan, Winifred Mading and Raymona Nuttal.

If I have not included someone's name that is a new member, I apologize ahead of time and I hope to meet all of you at one of our noon or evening meetings.

Kathie Vlahos - Editor

Have anything for the newsletter? Please contact Kathie Vlahos or Karen Grew-Ellison or go to: [newsletter@mesadwellers.org](mailto:newsletter@mesadwellers.org) to submit via-email directly to the editors.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 ½ Road at 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5<sup>th</sup> & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Anita Caldwell

#### Board Members

Jan Wilson	3 year Term
Jill Berthod	2011-2012-2013
Karen Grew-Ellison	2012-2013-2014
	2013-2014-2015

#### Standing Committee Chairpersons

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/Education/Outreach	Caley Gredig & Jill Berthod

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members).

Those with unpaid dues after April 30<sup>th</sup> of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

The main website for Mesa Dwellers is: [www.mesadwellers.org](http://www.mesadwellers.org)

You can also go to [newsletter@mesadwellers.org](mailto:newsletter@mesadwellers.org) to contribute to the newsletter. Contributions 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).

## June 2013 ~ September 2013 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

7 June 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Palisade Library Branch
13 June 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Rootstech 2013 video
26 June 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: <i>How Knowing the Law makes us Better Genealogists</i>
5 July 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at Fruita Library
11 July 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: <i>Annual Brickwall Share</i>
24 July 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Live Webinar: <i>Top 21<sup>st</sup> Century Genealogical Resources</i>
2 August 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at a Main Library
8 August 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting: Pot Luck Picnic
28 August 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Live Webinar: <i>Colonial Immigrants</i>
6 September 2013	Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at a Palisade Library
12 September 2013	Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: <i>German Ancestral Villages Part I</i> by Dennis Jenkins
25 September 2013	Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: <i>German Ancestral Villages Part II</i> by Dennis Jenkins

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### Presidents Message - Continued from page 1

You can gain access to 2 articles about my trip at the following web addresses:

<http://www.europeanfocus.com/tag/hasselbach/> and <http://www.europeanfocus.com/tag/wahlhausen/>

I hope you all get the opportunity to visit the places your ancestors lived.

To end my message, I encourage you all to contribute your research successes to our newsletter. A new recurring column titled "Success Stories" is starting in this issue. Check out what Caley Gredig has contributed and think about doing so yourself.

Dennis Jenkins, President, MCGS



## Current Map of Villages in Germany



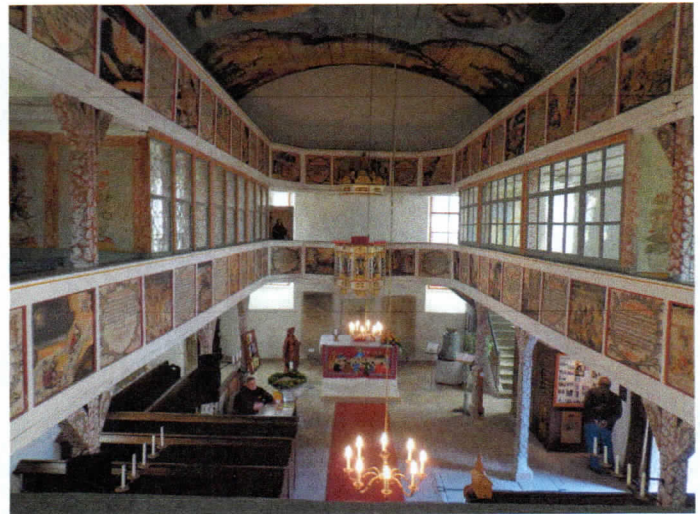
**Residents of Hasselbach attend Stephanus Kirche in Allendorf, Weilburg, Hesse**



**Pauluskirche (1782) Evangelical (Reformed) Church  
In Huckeswagen, North Rhine - Westphalia**



**Margaretenkirche (Lutheran) Kirche, Wahlhausen, Eichsfeld, Thuringia**



**Lutheran Church in Fretterode,  
Eichsfeld, Thuringia**

**Lutheran Church in Reckershausen, Goettingen,  
Lower Saxony**





We have all hit that brickwall with elusive relatives at one time or another. Where did they go? This column was the brain child of Caley Gredig. She hopes that through members and readers writing and sharing their own brief "success stories" in this column with information and tips on how they broke through that brickwall, it will be helpful to all readers of the Mesa Dwellers Quarterly to break the brickwalls they are struggling with. So with the hopes of helping others with their own "success story" think about writing a brief "success story" of your own to share in this column with others.

Kathie Vlahos – Editor

## Success Stories

**Robert E. Lee Kennedy**

**By Caley Gredig, May 2013**

Back in 1990, I had arrived at a brickwall in my own family research and started asking my sister-in-law, Whitney, about her family. My nephew was two years old and I felt that it was important to start putting his family history down in writing so that in future years we would have it to refer back to. Whitney knew the basic facts about her family but not much else.

Facts known:

Russell Dustin Gredig was born to John Warren Gredig and his wife Whitney Warren Koolage on November 26, 1987 in Aspen, Pitkin, Colorado. John Warren Gredig was married to Whitney Warren Koolage on May 26, 1986 in Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada. Whitney Warren Koolage was born February 14, 1964 in Richmond, Virginia to Robert Newton Koolage and Katherine Ann (Kitty) Kennedy.

Other facts known to Whitney were that her family owned stock in the Norfolk Shipyard, her maternal grandmother was Ann Nelms (second married name), her maternal grandfather was Robert E. Lee Kennedy who was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and she had uncles named Jack and Michael and an aunt named Marianne. She also had a paternal Aunt Virginia Bruce.

Over the years, I was able to find copious amounts of information on the Koolage family as they had left many papertrails to follow but kept coming up with nothing on the Kennedy/Nelms side of the family except that when Ann (Hinson) Nelms passed in 1998 her obituary gave her parents' names (Lenora E. J. Pool and Lindsey Monroe Hinson) and listed a surviving sister, Cora H. Hinson. Her sister's obituary in 2010 listed all the siblings and gave me much more information to go on for that side of the family. From that I was able to trace that branch of the family back several more generations. But, still nothing on the Kennedy line.

One thing that made this search more difficult is that the marriage of Robert E. Lee Kennedy and Ann Hinson occurred sometime in the early 1930s as Ann was still a Hinson in the 1930 Census and their daughter Kitty was born in June 1932. In August 2011, I started seeing posts on the ancestry.com message boards from a lady, Patty Erickson, who was looking for information about or descendants of a Robert E. Lee Kennedy who was born in Norfolk, Virginia about 1907. This posting gave a lot of information about his family but after looking for him for 20+ years, I was skeptical that this connection had basically fallen out of the blue and landed in my lap. (I still did not have direct evidence that the Robert E. Lee Kennedy that I was looking for was the same one that Patty was seeking.) Finally on 11 April 2012, I decided that I would contact Patty and let her know that I was researching the Kennedy line and thought that her line and mine were probably the same. Her response to me was also very skeptical because she had already been contacted by people descended from a Robert E. Lee Kennedy and through Y-DNA testing had found at least 10 different male family lines none of which were



### *The Kennedy Cousins*



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### Query for John Petal Harlow, submitted by Winnie Mading, May 4, 2013

I am the great-great-granddaughter of John Petal Harlow from his first wife in NY (Elizabeth Augusta Leaman). I have found some information about him in the Mesa County area from Newspaper Archives. We may take a trip out that way in the fall. Can anyone lead me to any info on him not in the readily available sources such as who was Kate-her maiden name, when and where did they marry. I also wonder what he was doing in Gunnison CO between his time in Salt Lake City and Palisade.

Thank you for any information anyone can provide.

Winnie Mading, [wmibcl@att.net](mailto:wmibcl@att.net)

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### Scholarship for IGHR Deadline Oct. 1, 2013

The Birdie Monk Holsclaw Memorial Scholarship to attend the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama accepts applications from across the U.S. Deadline for applications are Oct 1 of each year.

IGHR is a week-long program in June offering ten tracks of genealogical education including Techniques and Technology; Intermediate Genealogy and Historical Studies; Research in the South; Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis; Writing and Publishing for Genealogists; Genealogy as a Profession; Reading German Records; Understanding Land Records; The Five Civilized Tribes of Native Americans; and Scottish Genealogical Research. Courses do change from year to year.

The \$450 scholarship covers tuition. Room, board, and travel are not included.

Application is open to all genealogists and consists of a short resume listing genealogical experience and a 150-200 word essay describing how IGHR will help advance their genealogical research skills. Deadline for applications is October 1 each year. For more information, go to [www.cocouncil.org](http://www.cocouncil.org) and click on "Awards Available through Council."

*Submitted by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, May 6, 2013*

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### First Families Recognition Program Honors Colorado Pioneer Families

The First Families of Colorado Recognition program, sponsored by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, recognizes First Families, Territorial Families and Centennial Families of Colorado. Descendants of these Colorado Pioneers are invited to submit Genealogical Proof of their ancestors' presence in Colorado at specific periods of time. Each family that is approved is presented with a certificate verifying their status as Colorado pioneers. The certificate could be a perfect addition to a family history book, a presentation at a family reunion or a family scrapbook. The cost is \$20 per certificate.

There are three categories:

**First Family:** The ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, the land area of what is now Colorado before Feb. 28, 1861;

**Territorial Family:** The ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, a territory that is now Colorado between 1 March 1861 and 1 August 1876;

**Centennial Family:** The ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, Colorado at least 100 years prior to the date of the application.

Ancestors must be documented as Colorado pioneers during the category period but they do not have to have lived in Colorado continuously after that period. Also, applicants need not currently reside in Colorado, but must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who qualifies. There is also NO requirement for genealogical society membership although most societies can offer assistance in completing the necessary forms. Applicants must submit proof of relationship between generations, from applicant back to the earliest Colorado ancestor.

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www.mesadwellers.org  
P.O. Box 1506  
Grand Junction, CO  
81502-1506



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*Continued from page 9*

See the application form for types of acceptable proofs and documentation forms on the site that explain the program and application process.

The process takes 1-2 months so plan ahead. Mail all application materials to Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, Family Recognition Program, P.O. Box 40270, Denver, CO 80204-0270. For forms and more details check the website at <http://www.cocouncil.org/>

*Submitted by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, May 6, 2013*

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## **Outstanding Colorado Society Volunteer Nominations Open**

Birdie Monk Holsclaw Volunteer of the Year -- "The Birdie Award"-- is given to an outstanding living individual, society, group, library, archive or other organization that has provided outstanding volunteer service to the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies or some area of genealogical service in Colorado. Nominations are due by September 1 each year. Check the CCGS website at [www.cocouncil.org](http://www.cocouncil.org) and click on "Awards Available through Council" for more details about nominations.

*Submitted by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, May 6, 2013*