

Mesa County Genealogical Society News



Volume 37

June, July, August 2017

Issue 2

Calendar for June, July, August 2017

+The public is always welcome to attend meetings+

2 June Friday One on One Help Session at **Palisade** Library 2 pm to 4 pm

8 June Thursday Eve Mtg. at Commons 7 pm: **Genealogy Class**
"Record Collections" (FamilySearch and Ancestry)

28 June Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch Mtg. at Museum Program: *TBA*

7 July Friday One on One Help Session at **Fruita** Library 1 pm to 3 pm

13 July Thursday Eve Mtg. at The Commons 7 pm: **Genealogy Class**
"Historical Context"

26 July Wednesday Noon sack Lunch at Museum *TBA*

4 August Friday One on One Help Session at **Central Library** 1 pm to 3 pm

August - Potluck "No Evening Meeting" *Date and location to be announced*

23 August Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch Mtg. at Museum *TBA*

MESA DWELLERS



WELCOME = New Members

Korean Brown
Liz Pierce
Donna Bettencourt
Irene Ritschard

New Website Address: <http://www.mesacountygenealogy.org/>

President's Message June 2017



To better re-acquaint myself with the Mesa County Genealogical Society I have been reading all of the past newsletters to get a sense of the society's direction over the years.

Since 1980 there have been many ups and downs in society membership and the active support of the members, however even with periodic growing pains a great deal has been accomplished: a genealogy library was created; cemeteries, marriage and census records have been indexed; volunteers working jointly with the public library are indexing county obituaries; and member programs are always being designed and presented to help all of us become better genealogists.

As your recently elected President I have detailed my dreams and goals for the society (and, as I review what other societies are doing, they are getting more outrageous every day) but now I must hear from the members (all of you) to better understand why you are members and how you hope to benefit from society membership.

We all join groups for different reasons; social interaction and events, volunteer opportunities, educational programs and seminars, record preservation, help with 'brickwall' research problems, etc.

Our committees are already moving forward with some projects; reorganizing and indexing the library collection; new educational programs are being created; new membership packets are being designed and a new updated website is in the works.

So here is the chance to make your wishes heard. What is it that caused you to become members and what would you like your society membership offer you? What are you willing to do to help realize those dreams?

Don't have any ideas? Google some society websites, see what they are doing, can we incorporate some of their goals to fit our society? We don't have to 're-invent the wheel'.

Talk to me at any meeting, or if you prefer send me an email at mcsgpsres@gmail.com

Let's work together (all of us) to create a genealogy society that we can be excited to be part of.

See you at the next meeting,
Karen Sturgill

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.
5. To publish a quarterly newsletter sent to members.

Society evening meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 ½ Road at 7:00 pm
(*Except August - potluck picnic and December – noon potluck*)

Monthly sack lunch meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon (*Except November & December*)

Regular Business meeting will follow the Sack Lunch meeting 1 pm – 2 pm.

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.

The main website for Mesa County Genealogical Society is:

www.mesacountygenealogy.org

Contributions are encouraged and appreciated. Submissions can be written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Do you have a research tip, recollection of an event, or recounting of how you found your ancestors? You can share it with others in the next newsletter.

Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Now Online

Dick Eastman · May 29, 2017 <https://blog.eogn.com>

Many experienced genealogists can tell you that using the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps is a great way to learn more about the lives of your U.S. ancestors, especially if they owned their own homes or rented homes or their places of business.

The Library of Congress has placed online nearly 25,000 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, which depict the structure and use of buildings in U.S. cities and towns. Maps will be added monthly until 2020, for a total of approximately 500,000.



The online collection now features maps published prior to 1900. The states available include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Alaska is also online, with maps published through the early 1960s. By 2020, all the states will be online, showing maps from the late 1880s through the early 1960s.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are a valuable resource for genealogists, historians, urban planners, teachers or anyone with a personal connection to a community, street or building. The maps depict more than 12,000 American towns and cities. They show the size, shape and construction materials of dwellings, commercial buildings, factories and other structures. They indicate both the names and width of streets, and show property boundaries and how individual buildings were used. House and block numbers are identified. They also show the location of water mains, fire alarm boxes and fire hydrants.

You can learn more in the Library of Congress web site at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-074/?loclr=fbloc-new>

The Sanborn Fire Maps that are already online may be found at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection>

MCGS Offers Classes

You are welcome to join and share in our free beginning genealogy classes. They are being offered at the 7:00 pm Thursday meetings held in the Garden Room at the Commons of Hilltop, 625 27 ½ Rd, Grand Junction.

If you know someone that would like to join in the evening classes please invite them. The classes are being presented by MCGS members, with the direction of Larry Euchter.

Join the fun and come share your discoveries while researching your families.

The **April evening class** was "Get Organized – Choosing Software". Dennis Jenkins gave a presentation on Roots Magic. Several other products were discussed by members. If you would like more information about genealogy software choices, You can view options on:

FamilySearch.org > Get Help > Research Wiki > (Type in search box) Genealogy Software

This will give you several pages of information containing Prices/Free, Types of charts, capabilities, connections to online sites, organization styles, and ratings.

The May class was about Census Records presented by Jan Wilson and Ramona Nuttall.

(almost) **EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CENSUS RECORDS!**

Census records are a great place to begin your search of public records. They were created by the Federal Government and administered by the Census Bureau as a constitutional requirement.

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, state, county or city for a given date. In the United States, a nationwide census has been taken every ten years since 1790 to the present.

Because of the confidential information in them, the records are not available to the public for research until 72 years after enumeration. The 1940 is the most recent census available and the 1950 census is the next census to be released and that will happen in April 2022.

Congress designated one day in each census year as "Census Day". The enumeration began that day and its report was to be correct as of that day.

When was "census day"? 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820 1st Monday in August
 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890 and 1900 June 1st
 1910 April 15th
 1920 January 1st
 1930 and 1940 April 1st



In addition to the population censuses, there are other schedules which are "non-population" - a few are agricultural, defective, military, mortality and more.

The "Research Wiki" on FamilySearch.org has extensive information on the U.S. census from search strategies to accuracy issues and more.

You can find censuses online at the public library at Heritage Quest if you have a library card. The library also has a subscription to Ancestry which you can also access at the library with your library card.

Submitted by Jan Wilson

Census Record Type

I started out using microfilms over 30 + years ago to search the censuses. Now the online information makes it much easier for everyone. Many have been indexed which helps you read the writing. I chose to use Illinois as an example of what I could find on the Nuttall family, specifically my late husband's great great grandfather.

Besides the Federal Censuses there are some states, but not all that have off year censuses, as well as, the same years as the Federal Census. You would have to check each individual state to see if there was a state census. The records may be found at state archives, state historical societies, state libraries, the Family History Center or on the internet. There are fewer indexes for a state census, but you might find surnames, head of households, every name, a soundex town census, county or a complete state index. If a state has an index they usually give where the state census can be found.

Territorial Census can go back as far as the 1726 French Colonial Census of the Louisiana Territory. I found a reference to "Census Table for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732". It can be found through the Family History Library or another public library such as one in Thornton, Colorado.

The Territorial Censuses could define populations—how were people living, were they in agriculture (farmers), merchants, in an industry, etc. They also helped to establish statehood.

One of the states having the most complete State Census is Illinois. The Illinois State Census in 1865 by towns or precincts show only 14 counties. There were many mistakes made by the census enumerators, mostly due to addition and carry over figures. Illinois became a state December 3, 1818 it was formed from the Northwest Territory.

It is very important to study the location history of the ancestor you are researching. You should know the area make up and which years they were territories, states, counties. You will find that in many states county lines changed also states lines were changed. This can make the difference as to which state and county your research during specific years.

The screenshot shows a digital view of a 1865 Illinois State Census document. The document is divided into two main sections: 'POPULATION' and 'MANUFACTURES & AGRICULTURAL'. The 'POPULATION' section lists heads of families with their names and various demographic statistics. The 'MANUFACTURES & AGRICULTURAL' section provides data on the economic activities of the area. A red arrow points to the 'Image Index' button at the bottom left of the document viewer.

Image Index
 Information

Catalog Record **Item Number** **Film Note**
 State census, 1865 Crawford, Carroll, De Witt, De Kalb, Douglas, Du Page, Brown counties

Citation
 "Illinois State Census, 1865," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-SNSH-577cc=1803971&wc=M8D2-565%3A146008801%2C146008802 : 20 May 2014), Crawford > image 1 of 3; State Library, Springfield.


Ditto Brewington Nuttall

Memorial Photos Flowers Edit

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Birth: Feb. 18, 1840
Crawford County
Illinois, USA

Death: Nov. 25, 1909
Milleg
Parker County
Texas, USA




Added by: Ramona Local

Family links:

Parents:
Elijah Anderson Nuttall (1812 - 1874)
Rebecca Nuttall (1813 - 1880)

Spouses:
Salle Ann Terrell Nuttall (1847 - 1870)*
Nancy Belle Braascher Nuttall (1853 - 1891)*



You can compare your findings with other resources; Find-A-Grave, Local and County Records, Land records, probate records, Birth and Death Records.

Submitted by Ramona Nuttall

Noon Meeting Programs

The March noon meeting program was given by Connie Bunte, "Planning a Research Trip". There are two types of trips, visiting several small towns or areas and visiting one town.

In preparation for the town or area trip, make a binder with dividers. Some suggested section titles would be cemeteries, counties by county seat, city information, hotels and restaurants, local societies, historical information, museums, personal group sheets (Family group sheets and Pedigree sheet), and repositories in the area. Within the sections include addresses, phone numbers, hours of operation, what holdings are available, and costs.

Planning a trip to Salt Lake Family History Library, a binder is also very helpful. Organize it by surname, newest to oldest information, locations your ancestors lived, and what records you are looking for. Look online before you go, get familiar with the library and the procedures.

For any research trip you may want to take these items; laptop, flash drive (several), comfortable shoes, camera, gps, highway maps, paper, pens/pencils, magnifying glass, office supplies, first aid kit, pruning shears, water, paper towel, pair of cotton gloves. Plan for more than you need, Plan B, sometimes you need a plan C. Be adaptable!

Some additional hints - Be friendly, say Please and Thank You, call ahead, take the time to explore the area, be aware of your surroundings, let someone know where you are and where you are going each day, check into a home base to travel out of each day if you are researching an area with many places to visit, and above all meet the locals.

The April noon meeting program was given by Karen Strugill, "Cluster/Collateral Genealogy". Cluster genealogy is your ancestors groups they interacted with, such as, church and neighborhood people. Collateral is the group that you are not directly related to, in-laws and cousins. Research logs are helpful in cluster research. Make a timeline looking at different sources, look at different records – Think outside of the box. Be careful of "fluffed" articles and stories and look for proof. If you think you are close to finding your family members, put them in your files until you know Yes or No.

A few hints that may help you are, create a Personal WIKI to hold your information, read case studies to see how people use "Cluster Genealogy". Don't always go by "Index" find original documents whenever possible. When viewing census records, look at close neighbors, on several pages forward and back. Use a map of the area to find neighbors. A website is <https://uencounter.me/> this site pins where your family was.

Mesa County cities and towns continued

(Information from Mesa County web page)

Clifton, named for its proximity to the Bookcliffs, was apparently assigned that name by railroad survey crews as early as 1882, but the railroad did not arrive from the east until 1890. It was not until 1900 that the name appeared in conjunction with a post office and general store; Judge A.G. Mann was postmaster. Once established, the community of Clifton began to grow around the post office. In 1902 the Fruit Growers Association built a packing shed near the rail siding because there were enough orchards in the area for the railroad to provide a freight stop. The original townsite of Clifton was platted in 1905 and marketed by the Clifton Townsite Company. as being "located in the heart of the Grand Valley – Grand Junction 7 miles to the west and Palisade 6 miles to the east, on both the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and the Colorado Midland Railway. Premium orchard land was largely sold off in 10-acre plots at approximately \$400 to \$1000 per acre.

Palisade was named for the austere and dramatic palisades of Mancos Shale north of town. The sculptured appearance of these geologic formations was created by the uplifting of the area combined with localized erosion and the downcutting of the Colorado River. The first inhabitants of the Grand Valley were Ute Indians, followed by white settlers who began arriving in 1881. By 1894, the first peach, pear, apple and grape orchards appeared in the area now known as the Vinelands. The soil was rich but rainfall was scarce, so barrels of water were hauled by wagons from the river to water young trees.

In 1913 the U.S. Reclamation began construction of a system of irrigation canals to support agricultural efforts. Water from a 480 ft. wide roller dam across the Colorado River diverts water into the 80 miles of irrigation canals which comprise the Highline Canal and Price and Stub Ditches. [Click here for the Palisade Historical Society](#)
The local climate is often referred to as "The Banana Belt." The mild climate and unique terrain create near-perfect peach and grape growing conditions. Winds moving through DeBeque Canyon are compressed and warmed to prevent crop killing frosts in the spring. The climate, a 182-day growing season, and an average 78 percent of sunshine makes Palisade "The Peach Capital of Colorado."

De Beque has been home to humans for thousands of years. The early Native Americans, the Ute Indians, used the rolling hills as important hunting grounds. After the colonization of white settlers in 1880, the native Indians were moved to the White River Uintah reservations. In the spring of 1884, Dr. W.A.E. De Beque and three companions, searching for a suitable place to form a ranch, explored the hills surrounding what is now the Town of De Beque. Others followed quickly, and by 1890 there were 31 ranches in the area. Historically a location where wild horses, prevalent in the surrounding lands, were rounded up and sold, the Town's Board of Trustees designated DeBeque as the only Wild Horse Sanctuary City in the West in August of 2001.

Researching for Mesa County records can be done at www.mesacounty.us

Remembering A Long Time Member , . .



Elizabeth Philomene Gredig

- April 28, 1930 - April 25, 2017
- De Beque, Colorado

Elizabeth "Liz" Philomene (Smith) Gredig was born April 28, 1930 in Sterling, Colorado to The Venerable Eric A.C. Smith and Lena Clara Schrupp and passed away on April 25, 2017. Due to her father's profession as an Episcopal Minister, she spent much of her early years in various towns throughout Colorado. Her elementary school years were spent in the Grand Junction area attending Lowell Elementary with summers spent in McCoy at her grandfather's ranch. After a move to Denver, her family decided to send her to University Prep High School, a boarding school that was affiliated with the University of Wyoming in Laramie. She then attended Oberlin College in Ohio as an Education Major with a Minor in Dance Performance, following that she furthered her education with graduate courses at University of Alabama and Adams State Teacher's College.

After earning her degree, her teaching career took her to an Indian Reservation in South Dakota and an Air Force base in Keflavik, Iceland before relocating back to the Grand Junction area to teach at Fruita High School, R-5 and Central. In 1960, she married John Jacob (Jack) Gredig and they moved to a ranch in Basalt in 1962 where she continued to teach for a few more years. Later, she worked for the Post Office in Snowmass Village but spent much of her time as a homemaker and mother raising 2 children, John and Caley and working on the ranch where the family raised first beef cattle then Brown Swiss Dairy cows and later Suffolk Sheep. She also volunteered throughout the years for the various organization that her children were involved in including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. She also volunteered for a number of years for a variety of community organizations including the Music Associates of Aspen helping with registration every summer and creating costumes for the Aspen Opera Theater Center. A particular love during her final years was researching and co

In 2003, they sold the ranch in Basalt and relocated to a ranch in De Beque where she lived the remainder of her life. She is survived by her children, John (C.J.) Gredig of New Castle, and Caley Gredig of De Beque, Step-daughters Cynthia Lynn (Steve) Anderson of Denver and Claudia Sue Means of Temecula, California and Rifle, Colorado, Grandchildren Wendy (Warren) Enochs of Wildomar, California, Pamela (Fred Malone) Woolley of San Antonio, Texas, Buck (Tara) Chavarria of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Michelle (Dave) Livingston of Denver, Colorado, Nedra (Jason) Tomich of Buffalo, Wyoming, and Russell Gredig of New Castle, Colorado. She is also survived by 7 great grandchildren, 3 nieces, a nephew and numerous cousins and honorary grandchildren. Her parents, husband and brother Melvin all predeceased her. Memorial Contributions may be made to American Red Cross, Military Family Aid Programs, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839; Colorado River Rabbit Breeders Association-Youth Recognition Programs, P.O. Box 1186, Meeker, Colorado 81641, or HopeWest Hospice, 3090 12th Street, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506.

Cremation has taken place with ashes inurnment to take place at St. John's Cathedral's All Souls Walk in Denver with her parents. A Celebration Of Life will be planned for the summer.

Arrangements under the direction of Martin Mortuary, Grand Junction, CO.

Mesa County Public Library <http://mesacountylibraries.org/>

The Mesa County Public Library has many years of digitized copies from the local high school yearbooks. They have been added to the microfilm computers downstairs. The following are the years on those computers. If you have any missing years and would like to share them, please contact Ike Rakiiecki at irakiiecki@mcpld.org

Central High School: 1952-1966, 1968-1974, 1976-1981

Climax High School: 1951

Fruita Monument High School: 1960-1962, 1964, 1966-1981

Fruitvale High School: 1946

Gateway Public School: 1955

Grand County High School: 1968-1978, 1982

Grand Junction High School: 1909-1919, 1920-1932, 1934-1982, 1985-1987, 1989-2005, 2007-2010

Palisade High School: 1957, 1964, 1970-1974, 2000-2003, 2009-2010

Plateau Valley High School: 1965, 1968, 1970-1991, 1996-1997

The library website contains Mesa County Obituaries, lists of books, and genealogy information, select **eResources** on the first page. You can find local obituaries from 1882 to current. The older obituaries are searchable by name and date. You can then find the microfilm of the Daily Sentinel downstairs by the Rashleigh Local History Resource Room. The newspapers can be saved or printed.

Find Obituaries in our Catalog

You can find obituary source information for an individual through the library catalog.

1. Start at [our catalog](#).

2. From the dropdown menu, which says "Mesa County Libraries", select "Genealogy Records." (see this screenshot for more details: <http://screencast.com/t/gSlctAGyoWrQ>) To search, you can choose name or keyword. The initial screen displays matching names with birth and death date information below. If you click on the person's name, you will see the information you need - date and page number - to retrieve the obituary from the Sentinel's microfilm. Let us know if you would like a demonstration.

Classes online on the Public Library website

Universal Class <https://mesaco-universalclass-com.proxy.marmot.org/promo.htm?>

There are over 500 online classes available on the Public Library website. Included in the classes is a Genealogy class. Create a username and password, select Personal Development, Genealogy in search box. The class is Genealogy 101. There are 13 lessons, 28 exams & assignments, Video Audio is also available.

Other Learning Opportunities

Family Search <https://familysearch.org/> > Get Help > Learning Center

Ancestry (\$) <https://www.ancestry.com/> > Extras > Ancestry Academy

Are You My Cousin? <http://lialisson.com>

Thought Company <https://www.thoughtco.com/free-online-genealogy-education-1421960>

Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars/>

Roots Tech <https://www.rootstech.org/> Select sessions by the day

16 Ways to Leave a Legacy for Your Descendants

By Sharon DeBartolo Camack

From *Huellas del Posado*, the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Southern California, vol. 21, no. 3, August 2013, via *WAGS Family Tales*, the Whittier Area Genealogical Society, vol. 32, no. 10, March 2013. Reprinted with permission.

You've spent years digging up data and stories to breathe life into the grandparents and great-grandparents who have made your existence and your children's possible. But what are you doing to ensure your family's legacy will be around after you're gone? Here are sixteen ways to leave a legacy:

1. Start Scrapbooking: Only your imagination limits the scrapbooks you can create. Scrapbook themes include:

- Family Reunion
- School: yearbook pages and include memorabilia
- Cemetery: grave marker photos, death certificates, and obituaries
- Immigration and Migration: maps, passenger lists, passports and naturalization records
- House: deeds, pictures and information on the people who lived in the house

2. Assemble an Album: Photo albums are a natural legacy project. Be sure to identify the photos with names, dates and places.

3. Transcribe Diaries and Letters: Not only do you need to think about preserving them for the future, but you also should consider ways to make them accessible to other family members.

4. Put your Family History into words:

- Family History Book
- Essays: Compile a collection of essays on topics such as your own experiences or memories of relatives
- Articles: Genealogical society journals and newsletters are good places to publish your research results or tell other researchers about a brick wall you've conquered
- Letters: Compose letters to the youngest members of your family to tell them what life was like when you were growing up

5. Tombstone Rubbings: Your descendants will find rubbings of their ancestor's headstones more intriguing than photos. If headstone is cracked or unstable, don't attempt the rubbing. Ask cemetery superintendent or caretaker if rubbings are allowed.

6. Know your Needlework Heirlooms: Make sure you're displaying the heirloom in the proper archival materials away from sunlight. Store heirlooms in acid-free materials.

7. Write your Life Story: Let your descendants know about you with a Journal or Diary.

- **Research Journal:** Keep track of your searches and the results; report your joys, frustrations and feelings about the search for your ancestors
- **Memoir or Autobiography:** A memoir focuses on one part of your life, such as college years or military service. An autobiography details your whole life

8. **Interviews:** Never leave for a family reunion or a relative's house without a tape recorder or video camera.

9. **Inventory Ancestral Artifacts:** Create an inventory of your family artifacts, even those in a relatives' possession. Photograph each item and record the following information:

- How the item came into the possession of its current owner
- The owner's name and address
- A description of the item
- Family stories associated with it
- The date it was made or acquired
- The heirloom's history

10. **Display Family Photos:** As you collect photos of your ancestors, frame their faces for a family tree wall display.

11. **Electrify your Research:** Digitally preserving your family history is an easy way to share it with family members. Compile scanned photographs and documents along with family stories, and create a family Web site or make a CD-ROM scrapbook.

12. **Feast on Family Food Heritage:** Gather family recipes to create a book, CD or Web site for your family members who like to cook. Along with each recipe, include a photo of the dish and the cook who's most famous for it.

13. **Create a Family Newsletter.** Do you send an annual holiday letter summarizing your family's activities for the past year? File each one with your family history research, or keep a notebook of letters that you've written and received from others.

14. **Save the Dates:** Buy a special calendar to record ancestral events, such as births, marriages and deaths.

15. **Rerun Yesterday's News:** Create our own family newsletter and fill it with clippings you've found about your ancestors, including obituaries, news articles, and marriage and birth announcements. Publish your paper annually as a holiday tradition.

16. **Give the Gift of Well-Being:** By writing a family health history, you can help your loved ones stay well while sharing genealogical facts.



MCGS LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee is working to make the collection more user-friendly. We will reorganize the shelving so the states are in alphabetical order. We will also upgrade the existing catalog by adding a brief synopsis of the contents, the location covered, the time period covered, and a few of the most prominent surnames.

We have begun clearing the shelves of the Genealogical Helper and Heritage Quest magazines and are taking them to be recycled. Once they have been removed, we'll use the 'bare' space for rearranging the holdings. In the meantime, we are also beginning work on the catalog update, which will allow us to upload the catalog to the website; and it will give all of us an idea of what's really in the collection.

We're also gathering ideas regarding the old surname card file. Most of the people who filled out those cards are deceased, and most of the remainder are no longer members. We've discussed uploading the information from those cards—deceased ancestors only—to the members' section of the website.

Reminder
Always cite your sources.

My Favorite Ancestor - Member submitted-



First Cousin Once Removed *submitted by Jan Wilson*

This is an obituary of a 1st cousin once removed of mine. I never got to meet him, but I'm thinking, if I had, he might have been a "favorite character". It sounds like he was a hard worker and loved people. I'm sure he made many people stop and smile.....wouldn't you!!!

Steve Dearman - Meridian Star, Thursday November 6, 2008

Graveside services for Steve "Jack" Dearman were held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church Cemetery with the Rev. Kenny McGill officiating. James F. Webb Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dearman, 79, of Meridian, died Saturday, November 1, 2008, in Jackson. Mr. Dearman was born in Meridian on March 3, 1929. He was a well known shoe shine man and a local personality in downtown Meridian. He was easily recognized by his colorful orange and green pants and other colorful clothing that he wore and any time that anyone met him on the street, he was always willing to give them a big wave and a hello.

Survivors include his brother Robert Dearman of Meridian; a sister, Lucille Miles of Meridian and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Steve Dearman Sr. and Hester McDonald Dearman.

The Favorite Ancestor *submitted by Karen Sturgill*

For a genealogist, choosing a 'favorite ancestor' can be a tough assignment. Is it the steamboat pilot on the Arkansas River during the Civil War; or perhaps the 4th Great Grandmother, pregnant and chasing down a toddler while her husband fights in the Battle of New Orleans; or maybe it is the Canadian fur trapper who disappears while leading a group of military men into the wilds of the northeast? The choices can seem overwhelming, but after a great deal of thought I decided to choose my paternal grandmother Elizabeth Jane Keziah Simkins Merritt, who was always known as 'Lizzie'

Lizzie died when I was eleven. I remember her as a tiny (4'11"), red haired (she put it up in hairpins in tiny curls every day), lady who always wore dresses and lace up brogue oxfords, or what the grandchildren called 'grandma shoes'.



And although she died long before I became interested in my family history, it was the photos and documents she left behind in this trunk that started me on this journey (or maybe obsession is the better word), of research.

Born in Mason City, Iowa in 1897 she became a school teacher at 17. She took the Northern Pacific Railroad and moved to Wallula Junction, Washington when she was about 20. She spent her entire life as a teacher, retiring from the profession when she was 70 (although without the mandatory retirement age at the time, she probably would have taught until the day she died.)

She lived in the era of stage coach travel, but lived long enough to watch some of the first commercial jets fly. She never learned to drive nor flew in a plane preferring to travel by train or bus on her many journeys, and travel she did.

When she retired from teaching she began a project to list and contact all of the students she had taught in her long career in Iowa, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. She then traveled around the United States visiting as many as she could. I still have all her notes and carbon copy letters from that project.

She died when she was 83, having lived a long and interesting life.

ABIJAH HARRISON *submitted by Connie Bunte*

“Having been sick and confined to my bed for a year past together with my advanced age must in some measure account for my want of recollection of events which transpired so many years since, when it is known that events of a year or two since have gone from me.”

In his Revolutionary War pension application, Abijah Harrison said he was born 14 February 1751 in Orange, Essex County, New Jersey, and that he had lived there his entire life. He applied for the pension 7 June 1832, at the age of 81. The application contains witness statements and a description of his service. As a member of the New Jersey militia, he served at the battle of Long Island guarding prisoners. He was also at the battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield.

Like so many government agencies, the Pension Board wanted more information. The above quotation, in response, is the reason Abijah is one of my favorite ancestors. Despite what I see as his annoyance at bureaucracy, he did give the pension board more information; and he did get his pension. Abijah died in Orange on 26 February 1846.

His will is interesting. Two of his sons were apparently not fiscally responsible, and they weren't to get title to the land he left them until they had paid off their debts. He had a widowed daughter who was allowed only a life estate in “her” property. When she died, the land was to go to her children. However, she was allowed to pick all the apples she needed and to gather wood chips from the sawmill.

The stubbornness and defiance expressed in that quotation has come down through the generations, and I remember it especially in my grandmother and stories of my great-grandfather. My great-great-grandmother, when told there was no room for her flowers during one move, simply smuggled flower seeds in her apron pockets.

Now you know part of the reason I'm the way I am

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