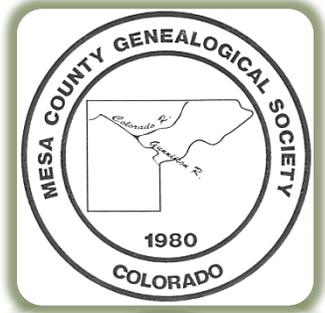


# Mesa County Genealogical Society News



Volume 37

March, April, May 2017

Issue 1

## Calendar for March, April, May 2017

*+The public is always welcome to attend meetings+*

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

**9 March Thursday** Eve Mtg. at Commons 7 pm: Part 2: Genealogy Class  
Citations/Charts/Proof Standards

**22 March Wednesday** Noon Sack Lunch Mtg. at Museum

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

**13 April Thursday** Eve Mtg. at The Commons 7 pm: Part 3: Genealogy Class  
Software (Roots Magic, etc.)

**22 April Saturday** "Family Discovery Day" 8 am-5 pm  
LDS Stake Center on 2881 Orchard Ave **\*See article for registration details.**

**26 April Wednesday** Noon sack Lunch at Museum

**5 May Friday** One on One Help Session at **Central Library** 1 pm to 3 pm

**11 May Thursday** Eve Mtg. at The Commons 7 pm: Part 4 Genealogy Class  
Census: Record Types

**24 May Wednesday** Noon Sack Lunch Mtg. at Museum



### ***My last President's Message***

I want to thank all the Officers, Committee Chairs and Speakers that I have worked with over the past 9 years. I will continue to work on obituaries and our help sessions at the Mesa County Public Library as well as the Mesa County Resources list. I will also be available to present a few programs in the future.

Given the Society and Website Mind Maps that Karen Sturgill described at the February 22nd Noon meeting, our Society will surely be moving forward with all ideas she is proposing.

Dennis Jenkins, Past President

MESA DWELLERS

# 2017 Officers, Board and Committee Members

We would like to welcome the 2017 officers, board members and committee chairs and members.

President - Karen Sturgill  
Vice President - Stella Ledbetter  
Secretary - Donna Jackson  
Treasurer - Laurie Buniger

## Board Members:

Kathie Vlahos 2015-2017  
Amy Provstgaard 2016-2018  
Sue Shea 2017-2019

## Committee Chairs:

Historian: Jan Wilson  
Program Director: Amy Provstgaard  
Membership/Outreach Chairperson: Sue Shea  
(Committee Members: Anita Caldwell  
Newsletter: Laurie Buniger & Karen McGuirk  
Parliamentarian: Connie Bunte  
Research Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
Librarian: Connie Bunte  
(Committee Members: Stella Ledbetter, Laurie Buniger)  
Webmaster: Karen Sturgill

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*If you would like to help on a committee, contact the  
Committee Chair from the list above.*

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**JUST A REMINDER:**  
**MARCH is RENEWAL TIME!**  
Please use the membership form on the  
last page to renew for 2017.  
on the last page. You can also pay at a  
meeting.



**THANK YOU**

**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 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

*(Except August - potluck picnic and December – noon potluck)*

**Monthly sack lunch meeting** is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 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

*(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 30<sup>th</sup> of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

**The main website for Mesa Dwellers is: *Under Construction***

### ***Contributions are encouraged and appreciated.***

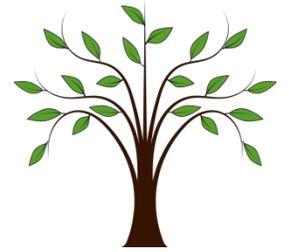
Submissions can be written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Do you have a research tip, recollection of an event, or recounting of how you found your ancestors? You can share it with others in the next newsletter.

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

Printing for the Mesa Dwellers provided by  
All Star Copy and Fax  
2860 ½ North Avenue, Grand Junction, Co. 81501  
970-241-2674 or [allstarcopy@gmail.com](mailto:allstarcopy@gmail.com)

They offer many services: B&W and Full Color Copies, print from your disk or e-mail, business cards – banners, fax service - typing service, desktop publishing, binding – laminating, NCR

## President's Message



Thank you for electing me as the new President of the Mesa County Genealogy Society.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank the previous President and Program Director Dennis Jenkins and all of the former officers and Board Members. We have been extremely fortunate to have individuals who have repeatedly taken on the responsibility to insure the continuation of the society.

I am especially grateful that the following individuals will be part of the team this year: Stella Ledbetter (VP), Donna Jackson (Secretary), Laurie Buniger (Treasurer and Newsletter), our Board Members: Kathie Vlahos, Amy Provstgaard, (new Program Director), and Sue Shea (Membership Chairperson), our Historian Jan Wilson, and Connie Bunte Librarian and Parliamentarian; Also our Committee Members, Anita Caldwell, Jan Wilson, Stella Ledbetter, and Laurie Buniger.) I look forward to working with all of you.

I have followed the society over the years mainly through the newsletter and occasional meeting attendance and am impressed with the commitment of the officers and members in their work in ensuring the objectives of the society is ongoing.

For those of you who do not know me, I have been a member of the society since my husband and I moved to Mesa County in the early 2000's and was the society president from 2005-2008. I resigned as President and Webmaster in 2008 due to family and career responsibilities.

Although I have been involved in various ways with family research since the early 1970's it only became an obsession (can you relate?) in the early 1990's.

I am the former owner of Monument Research Services (an unfortunately now defunct genealogy research company), and former member of the Association of Professional Genealogist Society (APG). I have taught beginning genealogy courses for Colorado Mesa University Community Education division since 2005.

Although I have lots of 'grand ideas' about what the society might become (doesn't every new president), I find much of what you are doing now is very much along the lines of what our society by-laws indicate (i.e. the member classes, library help sessions, and volunteer work to name just a few.)

I understand that there are many reasons people join a genealogy society from the social (with snacks of course); the desire to learn new techniques; instructing or sharing information; and even the inclination to contribute in the day to day management of the society. I hope to work with each of the members to discover what you might want for our society and what unique ideas you might have to offer for the future of the Mesa County Genealogy Society.

As an aside, I will also be taking on the duties of the society Webmaster. I have a background and education in web site design and maintenance and hope to work with the Website Committee, along with input from all members, to make our website something that we can use and be proud of.

Karen Merritt Sturgill



## **2017 MCGS Officers**

*Left to Right:*

Karen Sturgill – President  
Stella Ledbetter – Vice President  
Donna Jackson – Secretary  
Laurie Buniger - Treasurer

## **Mesa County. . . . . Our Beginning**

### **Mesa County, Colorado**



Location in the state of Colorado

Mesa County Courthouse  
PO Box 20,000-5010  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
Phone: 970.244.1607  
[Mesa County Website](#)

*Mesa County started in February 1883, Grand Junction is the county seat.*

Mesa County was created from Gunnison County and is bordered by Grand County, Utah to the West, Garfield County to the North, Gunnison, Pitkin and Delta counties to the Southeast, and Montrose County to the South.

Mesa County is also made up of many small unincorporated areas and small towns; Collbran, Mesa, Molina, Plateau City, DeBeque, Glade Park, Palisade, Clifton, Gateway, Loma, Mack, Fruita, and Whitewater.

**Grand Junction** founded in 1881. The city was first called “Ute” later “West Denver”. Then named Grand Junction, for the joining of two rivers, Grand (Colorado) and Gunnison River. The area was dry, barren land covered with rabbit brush. Crude homes were constructed from cottonwood trees growing along the river and roofs were earth laced with cattails and rabbit brush. There was a ferry that crossed the Grand River, many of those trying to ford the river drowned.

By the early 1880’s irrigation water flowed through the valley in many canals and ditches. Irrigation allowed agriculture to flourish and the railroads carried supplies in and crops out. The railroad came to the area in the 1890’s.

**Whitewater** settlers arrived in 1881. It was said to be larger than Grand Junction in the early 1880’s.

**Gateway** is located through Unaweep Canyon to the south of Grand Junction. The community is mostly ranching. Mining was also a very important part of this area.

Primary source for the above information taken from:

*“Mesa County, Colorado A 100 Year History” (1883-1983) by Emma McCreanor.*

*For more history and details visit the Loyd Files Library in the Museum of Western Colorado at 5<sup>th</sup> & Ute or the Rasleigh Regional History Room at the Mesa County Public Library 5<sup>th</sup> & Grand both in Grand Junction. See the next issue of Mesa Dwellers . . . Palisade, DeBeque, Silt, and Clifton will be highlighted.*

Researching for records can be done at [www.mesacounty.us](http://www.mesacounty.us)

You will find vital records, health department, assessor, and GIS maps. County Clerk has marriage and land records from 1883; County Health Department has birth, death and burial records; 1885 census taken. Birth records 1883-1902, Marriage records beginning 1883, Death records beginning 1893-1901, Land and Probate records beginning 1883.

# This Day in History

## United States Geological Survey created    March 3, 1879

*Article Details: History.com Staff published 2009 A+E Networks*

Congress establishes the United States Geological Survey, an organization that played a pivotal role in the exploration and development of the West.

Although the rough geographical outlines of much of the American West were known by 1879, the government still had astonishingly little detailed knowledge of the land. Earlier federal exploratory missions under men like Ferdinand Hayden and John Wesley Powell had begun to fill in the map, yet much remained to be done. Congress decided to transform the earlier system of sporadic federal geological explorations into a permanent government agency, the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

From the beginning, the USGS focused its efforts on practical geographical and geological investigations that might spur western economic development. Since the vast majority of the nation's public land was in the West, the USGS became one of the federal government's most important tools for encouraging the exploitation of western natural resources. Congress appointed Clarence King, a brilliant young mining engineer and geologist, as the first director. King, who had previously done considerable work for western mining companies, viewed the USGS as a tool for aiding further mineral exploitation. As a result, the first major reports produced under King's tenure concerned the economic geology of two important mining districts, Nevada's Comstock Lode and Colorado's Leadville silver district.

King's attempts to aid western mining won him praise from both mining companies and western congressmen, but King was eager to make his own fortune in the mining business. He resigned as director in 1881 to pursue what he hoped would be more lucrative opportunities. John Wesley Powell, a bold geologist-explorer who had led the first American explorations of the Grand Canyon, succeeded King as director.

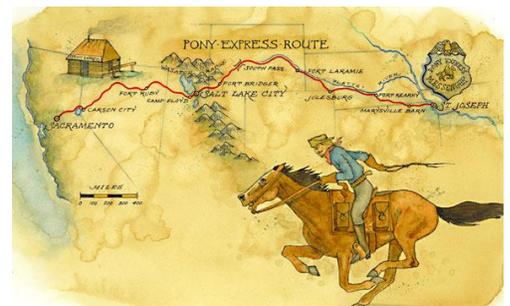
Powell extended the work of the survey into new areas like paleontology and soon became controversial for his bold assertion that much of the arid West would remain unsettled without large-scale irrigation projects. The direct and plainspoken Powell was so closely associated with the USGS during his 14-year term as director that many people have mistakenly believed he was the first director of the agency. Despite his expansion of the survey's mission, though, Powell never abandoned the practical economic emphasis established by King. Subsequent directors of the USGS also remained true to King's early focus on aiding the economic development of the West, providing topographical and geological maps that have continued to prove essential to the mineral, agricultural, and hydraulic development of the region to this day.

## Pony Express debuts    April 3, 1860

*Article Details: History.com Staff published 2009 A+E Networks*

On this day in 1860, the first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

Although ultimately short-lived and unprofitable, the Pony Express captivated America's imagination and helped win federal aid for a more economical overland postal system. It also contributed to the economy of the towns on its route and served the mail-service needs of the American West in the days before the telegraph or an efficient transcontinental railroad.



The Pony Express debuted at a time before radios and telephones, when California, which achieved statehood in 1850, was still largely cut off from the eastern part of the country. Letters sent from New York to the West Coast traveled by ship, which typically took at least a month, or by stagecoach on the recently established Butterfield Express overland route, which could take from three weeks to many months to arrive. Compared to the snail's pace of the existing delivery methods, the Pony Express' average delivery time of 10 days seemed like lightning speed.

The Pony Express Company, the brainchild of William H. Russell, William Bradford Waddell and Alexander Majors, owners of a freight business, was set up over 150 relay stations along a pioneer trail across the present-day states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California. Riders, who were paid approximately \$25 per week and carried loads estimated at up to 20 pounds of mail, were changed every 75 to 100 miles, with horses switched out every 10 to 15 miles. Among the riders was the legendary frontiersman and showman William "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917), who reportedly signed on with the Pony Express at age 14. The company's riders set their fastest time with Lincoln's inaugural address, which was delivered in just less than eight days.

The initial cost of Pony Express delivery was \$5 for every half-ounce of mail. The company began as a private enterprise and its owners hoped to gain a profitable delivery contract from the U.S. government, but that never happened. With the advent of the first transcontinental telegraph line in October 1861, the Pony Express ceased operations. However, the legend of the lone Pony Express rider galloping across the Old West frontier to deliver the mail lives on today.

## **A thousand pioneers head West on the Oregon Trail    May 22, 1843**

*Article Details: History.com Staff published 2009 A+E Networks*



The first major wagon train to the northwest departs from Elm Grove, Missouri, on the Oregon Trail.

Although U.S. sovereignty over the Oregon Territory was not clearly established until 1846, American fur trappers and missionary groups had been living in the region for decades. Dozens of books and lectures proclaimed Oregon's agricultural potential, tweaking the interest of American farmers. The first overland immigrants to Oregon, intending primarily to farm, came in 1841 when a small band of 70 pioneers left Independence, Missouri. They followed a route blazed by fur traders, which took them west along the Platte River through the Rocky Mountains via the easy South Pass in Wyoming and then northwest to the Columbia River. In the years to come, pioneers came to call the route the Oregon Trail.

In 1842, a slightly larger group of 100 pioneers made the 2,000-mile journey to Oregon. The next year, however, the number of emigrants skyrocketed to 1,000. The sudden increase was a product of a severe depression in the Midwest combined with a flood of propaganda from fur traders, missionaries, and government officials extolling the virtues of the land. Farmers dissatisfied with their prospects in Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee, hoped to find better lives in the supposed paradise of Oregon.

On this day in 1843, some 1,000 men, women, and children climbed aboard their wagons and steered their horses west out of the small town of Elm Grove, Missouri. The train comprised more than 100 wagons with a herd of 5,000 oxen and cattle trailing behind. Dr. Elijah White, a Presbyterian missionary who had made the trip the year before, served as guide.

The first section of the Oregon Trail ran through the relatively flat country of the Great Plains. Obstacles were few, though the river crossings could be dangerous for wagons. The danger of Indian attacks was a small but genuine risk. To be on the safe side, the pioneers drew their wagons into a circle at night to create a makeshift stockade. If they feared Indians might raid their livestock—the Plains tribes valued the horses, though generally ignored the oxen—they would drive the animals into the enclosure.

Although many neophyte pioneers believed Indians were their greatest threat, they quickly learned that they were more likely to be injured or killed by a host of more mundane causes. Obstacles included accidental discharge of firearms, falling off mules or horses, drowning in river crossings, and disease. After entering the mountains, the trail also became much more difficult, with steep ascents and descents over rocky terrain. The pioneers risked injury from overturned and runaway wagons.

Yet, as with the 1,000-person party that made the journey in 1843, the vast majority of pioneers on the trail survived to reach their destination in the fertile, well-watered land of western Oregon. The migration of 1844 was smaller than that of the previous season, but in 1845 it jumped to nearly 3,000. Thereafter, migration on the Oregon Trail was an annual event, although the practice of traveling in giant convoys of wagons gave way to many smaller bands of one or two-dozen wagons. The trail was heavily traveled until 1884, when the Union Pacific constructed a railway along the route.

## Family Discovery Day - April 22, 2017



See You There!!

The Family History Fair is now being called **Family Discovery Day**.

- + To register, go to [www.lds.org/familydiscoveryday](http://www.lds.org/familydiscoveryday)"
- + Click on "Click here to Find an Event"
- + Enter "Grand Junction Colorado" for the location, and click on "Search" under "Grand Junction Area Family Discovery Day,"
- + Click on "Register Here"
  - Fill out and submit the form
  - Respond to the email you will receive to finalize your registration

You will receive an email from "Family Search" with information from the Fair regarding lunch and a syllabus. Quantities will be limited, so please respond to the email with that information if you are interested. Registration will also be accepted at the door.

For more information please email: [gjfamilyhistoryfair@gmail.com](mailto:gjfamilyhistoryfair@gmail.com)



## 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. The first class was held on Thursday, February 9, the topic was basic family history research. These classes will continue March 9, the topic is Citations, Charting, and Proof Standards. April 13 the class will be about different genealogy software available, Roots Magic, etc. In May, Census record types will be discussed.

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 Eucher.

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



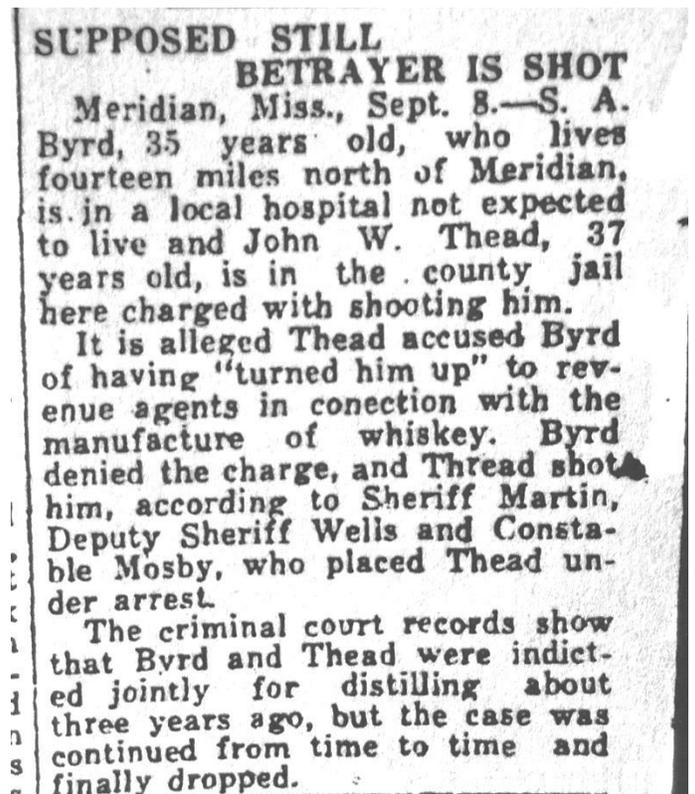
# Research at the Local Family History Center

Jan Wilson, Historian for MCGS

Below are two articles that I found on a couple of my ancestors. An obituary dated 1945 and a shooting that happened in 1923.

The local Family History Center has a subscription to "Newspaper Archive", a great site for finding obituaries and other news worthy articles as well. It has a large collection of historical newspapers from many states. An example is, Texas that has over 200 cities listed, with some cities having more than one publication. The years covered vary with each state, but Texas has newspapers dating from 1813 to 2016. A person can make broad searches by just typing in a name or narrow it down to a more specific place with a year, month and day.

Besides obituaries, I have found articles on wedding anniversaries, crimes committed, front page stories regarding car accidents, an ancestor that was walking through the woods and found a 1,000 pound unexploded bomb. An Air Force official said the bomb was released in 1957 by a crippled bomber.



**The Family History Center is located at  
2881 Orchard Avenue, Grand Junction.**

Hours: Tuesday 10:00 - 4:00, Wednesday 10:00 - 7:00, Thursday 10:00 - 4:00  
Saturday 1:00 - 4:00 (Entrance is at the south west side)

THE LYNN COUNTY NEWS - June 8, 1945

H.C. McKenzie Died Last Week

Following an illness which confined him to his bed for more than a year, H. C. McKenzie of O'Donnell, 69, died at his home in that city at 9:45 Wednesday evening of last week and funeral services were conducted in the Methodist Church there at 4:30 Thursday afternoon by Rev. E. H. Crandall, pastor, assisted by Rev. Crawford, pastor of the O'Donnell Nazarene Church and Rev. M. Burnes, Baptist minister at Seminole.

The remains were laid to rest in the O'Donnell cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Emma Dial McKenzie, and three children of a former marriage, Mrs. K (Annie) Dolloff of Seagraves, Mrs. P.A. (Lorene) Buchanan of O'Donnell, and Lonnie McKenzie of O'Donnell and a number of other relatives.

Deceased had been a member of the Methodist Church for 41 years and was devoted to his church. For many years he was also a member and an official in the Woodmen of the World.

Born in Van Zandt county on November 25, 1876, deceased was a native Texan and had spent almost his entire life in VanZandt and Lynn Counties. He came from Van Zandt to Lynn County in September 1915, resided in the Three Lakes community about ten years, and then moved to O'Donnell.

He was first married to Miss Lillie Boyles in Van Zandt county about 1897, and of this marriage the three children named above were born, his wife dying in 1904. In 1919 he married Miss Emma Dial in Wood County, and she survives him.

Mr. McKenzie was well known in the county and especially among the citizens of O'Donnell, Three Lakes, and other communities in the southwestern portion of the county. Many friends attended the funeral services and in many ways evidenced their esteem of their departed friend and neighbor.

## In Memorium of a longtime member.



**Carol A. Frost**  
**December 25, 1927 – February 13, 2017**

Carol Frost was born on December 25, 1927, in Sacramento, California to the late James Lester Hapgood and Blanche Emerson

Hapgood. She attended Sacramento High School, Sacramento Junior College and Sacramento State College.

Carol had a wonderful childhood together with her siblings, Doris Elizabeth Hapgood Brown and James "Bud" Emerson Hapgood. They spent a lot of time camping in the Sierras and Lake Tahoe, which Doris says she hated and Carol loved every minute of it. She loved visiting Timbuktoo, where her father grew up, and went there often.

She had two children, Laura and Bill Lage. They moved to Grand Junction in 1971 where she has made her home for 47 years.

She later married William "Bill" Frost. She and Bill had a wonderful life together, traveling, camping, going in their trailer and motor home, together with her siblings, Doris and Bud. They traveled all over the country together for several years and that was truly the highlight of her life. Carol was a hard worker, had a great sense of humor, loved hunting with her son, Bill. She loved working on genealogy and discovered a lot about her ancestors.

Carol worked as an accounting clerk for the 21st Judicial District in Grand Junction, prior to that she was employed by Sacramento State Government, and Southern Oregon College. She loved needlepoint, crocheting, knitting, quilting, embroidering and was very creative and precise in everything she did. She was a great mentor to many and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

She was preceded in death by husband, Bill Frost; daughter, Laura Lage, and her parents, James and Blanche Hapgood. She is survived by her son, Bill Lage; step-sons, Mike (Lori) Frost, and Ed (Marquita) Frost; step-daughter, Jean (Marty) Morgan; sister, Doris Brown; brother, Bud Hapgood; grandson, Logan, Brandon, Kevin, Jessica, Christopher, Tyler, and great-grandson, Andrew .

A service will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Brown's Chapel, 904 N. 7th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501 followed by a burial at the Veteran's Memorial cemetery at 1:00 pm.

## Being Digitized . . .

The Mesa County Public Library is in the process of digitizing high school yearbooks. Their hope is to have this part completed in March. Eventually they will be added to the searchable catalog on the library website.



The Museum of Western Colorado along with the help of the Mesa County Public Library are beginning a project to digitize the Oral History tapes from the Mesa County Historical Society project. The tapes were compiled over the past 30 years. Local community members told their stories about coming to the grand valley area, what life was like on their farm, schools, and businesses.



## One on One Help Sessions

These sessions are available to the public as well at the MCGS members. They are held at rotating Public Libraries (Main, Fruita, Palisade) If you need help researching, knowing what and where to search next, or just need an ear to help you think through a problem, come to a session. Register for a space on the Mesa County Public Library site: [www.mesacountylibraries.org](http://www.mesacountylibraries.org)

*When you register it allows us to know how many helpers to have available.*

## Websites to visit

**Archive.org** <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>

Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more.

The Archive's ever-expanding collection of genealogy resources includes items from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Robarts Library at the University of Toronto; the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library; Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; the National Library of Scotland, the Indianapolis City Library's Indianapolis City Directory and Yearbooks Collection, The Leo Baeck Institute Archives of German-speaking Jewry Leo Baeck Institute Archives, and the Boston Public Library.

Resources include among many things books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents.



**Government Offices in your County** <http://www.countyoffice.org/>

This is the most accurate internet database of county government offices in the United States. Use our site to locate your county assessor, board of elections, chamber of commerce, child support offices, colleges, coroner, courts, and much more, with all relevant details.

**Linkpendium** [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com)

Links to genealogy information by state.

**Geni** [www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com)

Use this free, social-networking, collaborative organizational site to let family members anywhere contribute to the family tree.

**USGenWeb** [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

Genealogy sources, information and research tips provided by a nation-wide volunteer network.

**Using WorldCat to Find Genealogy Books** [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. It is an online library catalog that lets you look up items in libraries around the world. The items available include books, electronic documents, journals, microform, and audio and video recordings.



**Google Books** <https://books.google.com>

**Google Books Library Project – An enhanced card catalog of the world's books**

We're working with several major libraries to include their collections in Google Books and, like a card catalog, show users information about the book, and in many cases, a few snippets – a few sentences to display the search term in context.

# My Favorite Ancestor



Horace Hill & Kenneth - grandson

**1836-1928**

In 1867 my Great Grandfather Horace Hill purchased the farm where I happily grew up in Marshfield, Vermont. Reason enough for him to be my favorite ancestor but additionally his photograph shows a kind, smiling face and through many years of diaries recorded by Great Grandmother I learned he was a caring man. He had very little opportunity for schooling therefore I was perplexed when I read in the diaries that the neighbor farmers called on Horace to treat their cows, horses, pigs, and sheep. He made barn calls day and night. A book found in my own library more recently may explain his expertise. It was his 1852 veterinary manual, Cattle by Youatt.

Additionally Horace was called on to 'sit' with sick neighbor men. Great Grandmother tells of the days and nights that he sat with Alonzo. Horace fetched some slippery elm for treatment and after

Alonzo passed away he sat with the body overnight.

From the 1905 diary:

Dec 12 Horace & Henry (son) took our horses & broke out (snow) the road in cemetery Henry begun to dig the grave for Alonzo this afternoon

Dec 13 Horace carried Eatons milk then went up to put Alonzo in to the casket came back & got ready we went to the funeral at eleven at the house – Mr Fortney preached no singing Henry dug the grave 2.00

His obituary written by a grandson states, "At the outbreak of the Civil War he offered himself for service in the Union army, but was denied admittance because of a faulty heart. With the possibility of service in the army out of the question, he applied himself to another method of liberating the slaves and became one of the most active conductors in the famed underground railway. Possessed of keen initiative and dauntless courage, he succeeded in aiding many an unfortunate Negro to obtain his freedom by getting him into Canada. His route lay from Barre to Craftsbury, where another station of the underground railway was situated. One of his favorite stories was the tale of a narrow escape from the owners of a group of fugitive slaves whom he was piloting and from whom he escaped only by the superior speed of his team."

Carole Lyndes Moritz

## **My Favorite Ancestor is . . .**

This will be the June newsletter member submission idea. Who was your favorite ancestor and why? Include a photo, clipping, letter, etc.

Thank You for Sharing! (You can send it any time before May 15)

Mesa County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1506  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-1506



*Guests Are Welcome*

## 2017 Membership Renewal Mesa County Genealogical Society – Annual Dues Invoice

(\$10.00 Single \$12.00 Family per year – covering 3/1/2017 – 2/29/2018 +Payable by March 31, 2017

Renewal       New Member

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print Clearly)

I/We belong to the following Genealogical Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help with:    Research Queries    Classes    Presentations    Community Activities**

Please make your check payable to the Mesa County Genealogical Society (MCGS) and mail membership Form and dues to:    MCGS, P.O. Box 1506, Grand Junction, CO 81502.