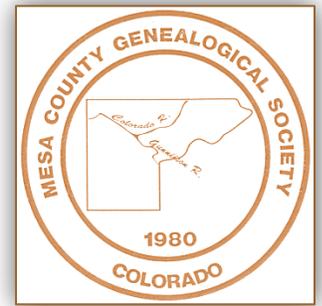


Mesa County Genealogical Society News



Volume 37

September, October, November 2017

Issue 3

Calendar for September, October, November 2017

+The public is always welcome to attend meetings+

- 1 September Friday 2-4 pm Help Session at Palisade Library
- 14 September Thursday Eve 7 pm at the Commons in the Garden Room – Program TBD
- 27 September Wednesday Noon sack lunch meeting at Museum 2nd floor Conference Room - Program TBD
- 6 October Friday 1-3 pm Help Session at Fruita Library
- 12 October Thursday Eve 7 pm at the Commons in the Garden Room- Program TBD
- 21 October Saturday, Family History Month Program – Mesa County Public Library
10 am – 3 pm in the Community Room. The public is invited to visit with different organizations in town with a focus on family history.
- 25 October Wednesday Noon sack lunch meeting at Museum 2nd floor Conference Room – Program TBD
- 3 November Friday 1-3 pm Help Session at Main Library
- 9 November Thursday Eve 7 pm at the Commons in the Garden Room – Program TBD
- 1 December Friday 2-4 pm Help Session at Palisade Library



****No November noon meeting.****



****No December evening or noon meetings.****

December Potluck – Date, Time and Location to be determined.

TBD - Watch for emails with event details



MESA DWELLERS

Presidents Message September 2017



I have been reviewing the Mesa County Genealogical Society (MCGS) By-Laws and one objective of our society stands out; “instruct [our] members in the art and practice of genealogical research.”

Although genealogy related programs have been offered on a regular basis since the inception of the society in the 1980, this year MCGS presented a sequence of introductory sessions during our evening meetings as requested by you, the members. We have learned about ‘Citations and Census Records; Software and Social Media, History for Context and the Genealogical Proof Standard’ just to name a few.

In September this first sequence will be complete.

We now need your input. What would you like to see offered in our next sequence of educational sessions? What classes would assist you in being successful with your research goals?

I am not entirely sure how many of you read ‘Mesa Dwellers’ but for those of you do, (and who get this far in the ‘Presidents Message’), this is your opportunity become involved in your society. A few ideas for topics are included below. Look them over; will any of them address a gap in your ability to research effectively? Are there some that you feel you could present? Do you know of someone who would be willing to present an appropriate topic? Do you have ideas for topics not listed here? Are there some beginners topics that you would like to see expanded?

Keep in mind, that if there is something you would like to present but are not sure how to get started, we have several members who have a background in presentations and instructing and would be happy to assist you in putting together a presentation in your particular area of expertise. As a long time trainer and instructor I can attest that knowing your audience and sharing a common passion for genealogy, makes presentations far easier than the same presentation in a room full of strangers.

Take some time to peruse these topics and let myself (mcgspres@gmail.com) know what you are interested in, either as a presenter or just because the topic would be useful to you.

Newspapers & Periodicals (also using PERSI)	State/County specific records
Wills and Probate Records	Analyzing DNA test results
Immigration & Naturalization	Analyzing Documents workshops
Military Records	WPA Records
Google Books	Old Photograph Identification

Don’t forget MCGS now has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/mesacountygenealogy that is updated with a variety of genealogy and society related items on a regular basis.

Karen Sturgill, MCGS President

NEW MEMBERS

Sally Moore
Marjorie Boughton
Brenda & Kevin Sabo
Mary & Ken Moore
Deanna Martin & Mom



MCGS Help Sessions

Offered the first Friday of each month rotating at the Mesa County Public Libraries.

September = Palisade 2-4 pm

October = Fruita 1-3 pm

November = Central (Grd. Jct) 1-3 pm

December = Palisade 2-4 pm



To register: Go to <https://mesacountylibraries.org/> On the Events menu select Calendar – Go To the first Friday of the month you would like to participate find “Genealogy Research Help – Location” You will find time, date and location. Select the **Register** button.

When you register it helps MCGS arrange to have enough helpers there for each participant. You are encouraged to bring your laptop.

Need help climbing your family tree? Mesa County Genealogy Society members will be available for one-on-one research assistance. Whether you are an ancestry research novice, or you have specific, detailed and tough obstacles, use their research tips and tricks to learn more about your family's past. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and are encouraged to register - you can sign up below, or call 970 243-4442. *(From the Mesa County Public Library website)*

~~~~~ Genealogists live life in the Past Lane. ~~~~~

## We remember a past member



**Berta Donn (Flagg) Gardner**  
**September 25, 1927 - June 15, 2017**

Berta Donn (Flagg) Gardner passed away June 15, 2017, after a short illness, she was 89.

She was born September 25, 1927, at St Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, Colorado to Alfred and Edith (Van Gundy) Flagg. Bert Donn lived her entire life in Grand Junction. She attended Lincoln and Lowell

Elementary and Grand Junction Junior and Senior High Schools graduating in 1945.

Berta was a very beautiful and popular young lady. She was involved in many school activities including being a Banner Girl with the GJHS Marching band. She attended the University of Colorado Boulder and returned to Grand Junction in 1946, she attended Mesa Junior College, graduating in 1948. She also attended Colorado State Teacher's College in Greeley. She married William Rocchio on September 5, 1948, in Grand Junction.

Berta worked several years for Public Service Company of Colorado. In 1959 she opened a kindergarten and taught in her home for several years. She also worked as a secretary for several local businesses.

On June 18, 1967 Berta married Robert Gardner in Fort Collins. She worked alongside him in the family business before returning to school to focus on her true passion, art. She was an accomplished artist, working in many mediums including oil, water color, chalk, pencil and sculpture.

In 1993 she won first place in sculpture, at the Colorado artists association show in Loveland for her caricature of President George H. Bush. That piece was accepted into the National Sculpture Society art show in New York City March 2003. Her sculpture "Katnap in the Garden" was an early selection in the "Art on the Corner" program on Main Street in downtown Grand Junction. She belonged to many art organizations including the Grand Junction Art Center and the Brush and Pallet Club.

In addition to her love of the arts Berta was passionate about genealogy she traced the family trees of the Flagg and Van Gundy families. She loved to travel and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe, immersing herself in the art and architecture of the places she visited.

She is survived by her son, William James (Peb) Rocke Jr. of Grand Junction; step-son, Kevin Gardner of Highlands Ranch; step-daughters, Denise Slane of Salt Lake City; Dyann Kominski of Montauk, New York and Stephanie Sweeney of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is also survived by her sister, Marilyn Kotich, of Fort Collins; nieces, Kim Agnew of Salt Lake City; Diana, Sheri, and Linda Kotich all of Fort Collins. She is survived by 12 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Berta was cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. All cards and condolences may be sent to Callahan-Edfast Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to The Art Center of Grand Junction, in her name.

## Old Family Photos

### How to tell what possible year the photo was taken.



*Vintage Dancer*  
Connecting You to Vintage Style Clothing Online

<https://vintagedancer.com/1900s/>

This website can be very helpful when you need help deciding what era a picture was taken. Do you wonder if the man in the picture is the dad or the son. Looking at the clothing for men, women, and children on this site can be of great help. There is also a Victorian Era page. The information is divided by Victorian, 1900s, 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s; Men, Women, and Children.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Oct. 21 = Family History Day 10 am- 3 pm**

**at the Central branch of the Mesa County Public Library**

- If you enjoy talking with people and talking genealogy with people, meeting new friends; you might want to man the MCGS table.
- If you would like to be a greeter, you would stand at the door of the Community Room in the library and welcome visitors to the event.
- Help Set-up and/or clean up that day 9-10 and 3-4
- Help at the refreshment table



**Research requests as a MCGS member** Research requests are received through our website.

- Help locate gravesites, Mesa County records, Newspaper articles/obituaries, etc.
- *\*Training will be arranged this fall\**

*If you have questions or would like to participate please contact Karen Sturgill at [mcgspres@gmail.com](mailto:mcgspres@gmail.com)*

**Research help for MCGS members** We are gathering information from members about:

- Where they have research knowledge
- What type of research they know best
- Where they have had successes and brickwalls

Members can help each other with their research. It is good to have a different view of ancestor searches.

*If you have question or would like to participate please contact Karen Sturgill at [mcgspres@gmail.com](mailto:mcgspres@gmail.com)*

Thank you to Jan Wilson for taking photos of MCGS events.

*Check the MCGS website  
for more pictures.*



## **Projects Happening! 2017**

- ❖ Re-Organization of the MCGS Library located at the Loyd Files Library in the Museum of Western Colorado, 5<sup>th</sup> and Ute Ave.
- ❖ Indexing of the Mesa Dwellers newsletters 1980 to current to be placed on the MCGS website.
- ❖ Organizing = the Family History Month Project on October 21 at the Central Library
- ❖ New Member packets to be given to prospective members
- ❖ Entering the obituaries from the Daily Sentinel into the Mesa County Library system.  
*This database can be searched from home through the library website.*

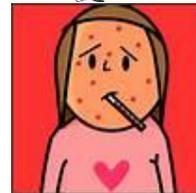
# Projects of the Past! 1980-2016

- ✓ Extraction of information from the first Grand Junction newspapers, Sun Times, Daily News, Daily Sentinel
- ✓ Obituary information entered into a card file for use at the Mesa County Library, *now housed at Loyd Files Library*
- ✓ Cataloging the books, family bibles & histories, newsletters, numerous magazines, resource books, and maps in the MCGS library located at the Museum of the West.
- ✓ Cemetery project that spanned several years. This produced the data base of all cemeteries in the Mesa County area. The book is located at the Loyd Files library.  
*\*It can also be found on the MCGS website.*
- ✓ Gathering member family information on cards for help in research and brickwalls
- ✓ Numerous Seminars and Guest Speakers
- ✓ Helped with fund raising for the Mesa County Public Library.

## WARNING:

### GENEALOGY POX

***Very contagious – Especially for adults!***



**SYMPTOMS:** Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bill from spouse. Mumbles to self. Has a strange, faraway look in eyes.

**TREATMENT:** There is no known cure. Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he can be alone.

**REMARKS:** The unusual nature of this disease is...  
the sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

*From: North West Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society Magazine-1984*

# **Establishing Your American Indian Ancestry**

Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

Some people want to become enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. Others want to verify a family tradition (belief, fact or fiction, passed from generation to generation) that they descended from an American Indian, either in their distant or near past. While others might want just to learn more about the people they descend from and where they lived.

When establishing descent from an Indian tribe for membership and enrollment purposes, the individual must provide genealogical documentation. The documentation must prove that the individual lineally descends from an ancestor who was a member of the federally recognized tribe from which the individual claims descent.

When people believe they may be of American Indian ancestry, they immediately write or telephone the nearest Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office for information. That is not the best place to start. Many people think that the BIA retrieves genealogical information from a massive national Indian registry or comprehensive computer database. This is not true. Most BIA offices, particularly the central (headquarters, Washington, DC) and area (field) offices do not keep individual Indian records and the BIA does not maintain a national registry. The BIA does not conduct genealogical research for the public.

This information was taken from the website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ccia/genealogy-0>

Office of Public Affairs - Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, N.W., MS-3658-MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Check online databases and search engines

- The Denver Public Library is a great clearinghouse for genealogical research. <http://history.denverlibrary.org/research/genealogy.html>
- Heritage Quest has an index to records available on CD ROM and in magazines, books and software. [www.heritagequestonline.com/](http://www.heritagequestonline.com/)
- Fold3 (formerly Footnote) has over 412 million documents to add to your family tree. <http://go.fold3.com/genealogyrecords/> 5 | Page
- Ancestry has unlimited free access to AncestryPlus from all NARA locations. <http://www.ancestry.com/>
- FamilyHistory <http://familyhistory.com/>
- FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/>
- Native American Heritage Genealogy [www.nativeamericanheritage.com](http://www.nativeamericanheritage.com)
- Access Genealogy [www.accessgenealogy.com](http://www.accessgenealogy.com)
- Link specific to Native Americans: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/>
- RootsWeb [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)
- Indians of Canada [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca)
- Genealogy.com [http://genealogy.com/index\\_n.html](http://genealogy.com/index_n.html)
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) [www.atalm.org](http://www.atalm.org)
- The USGenWeb Project is noncommercial and fully committed to free genealogy access. <http://usgenweb.org/>
- Kindred Konnection <http://ww1.kindredkonnection.com/>
- GeneaNet <http://www.geneanet.org/?lang=en>
- The Online Native American Indian Genealogy Records and Databases includes links to Dawes Commission records and indexes for individual Tribes. <http://www.genealogybranches.com/nativeamericans.html>

## Virtual Family Reunion

It is hard today to gather all your family together in one place and a one time. There is an option, "Virtual Family Reunion". Yes, you can set the time, give your family instructions and there you have it, The Virtual Family Reunion. You can even set up a website or Facebook page for family members to visit, add and share information, pictures and stories.

Some families may live close enough to gather together, others may not be able to travel and be by themselves. Either way with the wonder of technology you can all be together. Share stories, photographs, see each other live, ask questions, and even record oral histories. There is even a way to record members of the family and save their stories and picture for others to see.

**Begin by making the plan.** Choose a theme, create a logo or focus around an important family date. Share the fun and excitement of pulling the pieces together. Get the teenagers involved, they can show off their technology skills. There are many online tools to help you setup the perfect family event. You can add video clips of family parties, even old home movies. This will preserve the moments for the future; people who aren't even born yet.

Some online tools you can use are

- Video conferencing; Skype, Google hangouts, FaceTime, Facebook video chat
- Multimedia screencast recording and broadcast tools: Screencast-o-Matic, Jing, and CamStudio
- Collaboration and sharing tools: Facebook, Google Drive, Picasa, Pinterest

Get as many family members involved as possible. Everyone has something to contribute to the Reunion planning. The more people you involve the better participation you will have. Have a fun time!

++ If only people came with pull down menus and online help. ++

**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 County Genealogical Society is:**

<http://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).

Colorado  
First Families  
Recognition  
Program

## Are You A Colorado First Family?

As genealogists, we're proud of where we came from and the stories of our ancestors' travels, lives, and histories. And we're proud of our ancestors' contributions to the places in which they settled and raised their families.

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, commonly known as the Council, administers the First Families of Colorado program whereby descendants of Colorado pioneer families receive certificates of lineage honoring their Colorado heritage. The certificates are handsome, very suitable for framing (I'm sure most of them are), and memorialize Colorado early families.

The First Families of Colorado Recognition Program has been in place since 1983, and so far, hundreds of descendants have submitted proofs of lineage to Colorado ancestors and received certificates. The people who apply for and receive the certificates often include their children and grandchildren, giving proof of a personal connection to Colorado. You can see the names of these descendants and their pioneer connections at:  
<http://www.cocouncil.org/documents/PioneerList.pdf>.

There are three categories of recognition:

**First Family**, whereby an ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, the land area of what is now Colorado, before 28 February, 1861.

**Territorial Family**, whereby an ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, a territory that is now Colorado, between 28 February 1861 and 1 August 1876.

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

You may learn more about the First Families program at:  
<http://www.cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html>

Applicants need not be current residents of Colorado. Indeed, many descendants do not reside in Colorado, but proudly remember their Colorado heritage.

Applicants may submit documentation tracing their ancestors' activities and existence in Colorado by way of census records, church records, and birth, marriage and death records.

For an application, visit <http://cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html>.



## **BIRTHDAY BOOK FUND**

In order to keep a continuing book fund available the Board has accepted a suggested birthday fund collection. A “piggy bank” of sorts will be on the table at all general meetings and if you have a birthday during that month, you are invited to add a dollar (or any amount you choose) to the “piggy bank”. The Treasurer is directed to keep a separate accounting of the fund and when sufficient money is collected, a reference book will be purchased. The book chosen will be voted upon by the general membership from a list submitted by the Library Committee. Your suggestions for additions to this recommendation list are welcome. So, come to meeting prepared to celebrate your birthday a new way and help increase our research materials.

*From: MCGS Newsletter Vol 4 Issue 3 1984*

## **October is National Family History Month**

### **Here are some ideas to get your family involved.**

Write a biographical sketch and share it with your family.

Share someone's life story.

Share a story from your youth with a child.

Tell stories about life when you were a child.

Record the history of your family heirlooms.

Record the origin of things and stories about how you came to have them.

Create an heirloom, such as a cross-stitch, embroidery, crocheted blankets. Take photos of items and make a scrapbook.

Cook up some family recipes.

They can be recorded with any stories that go with them.

Make copies of family photos.

Scan them into a computer and print them out.

Pass out copies of family trees.

There are several computer genealogy programs available.

Write a letter and spread some good will.

Send a thank you note to clerks and librarians that have been helpful in your search efforts.

Create some memories to preserve for your own family.

*From Minnkota Genealogical Society Grand Forks, ND*

## **Protecting your Family Research and Treasures**

What would you do if there was a natural disaster or leaking pipes, moisture causing mold or a computer melt down? You have saved, retrieved, and gathered photographs, birth and death certificates, family bibles, jewelry, clothing, books, and much more.

Making a plan for a time of disaster takes time and some basic knowledge. Knowing how and where to store your records and heirlooms is vital.

While talking with a group of friends last month, two of them compared stories of when their homes burnt. Basically telling the same story of watching the flames and water, their thoughts turned to all the things in their house. Most things were replaceable, but many were not.

One person had scanned photos and documents. Some treasures and papers could be saved from the smoke and water damage. Others were a total loss. Where do we start?

This leads to the suggestion, "Make a Plan" to find out how to digitize and who can help you. You can still keep the actual items. Upload copies to the Cloud, on a jump drive, or on a hard drive. Of course, you would want to store the jump drives and hard drive in a different location than next to your computer. You can make three copies of all digitized records. Give one to two different family members for safe keeping.

For more information about Disaster Plans you can visit:

- Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html>
- Plan Ahead: Protect Your Genealogy from Disaster by Denise May Levenick <http://www.LegacyURL.com/levenickdisaster>
- How to Preserve Family Papers and Photographs by U.S. National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives>

### December Issue Theme:

**Send your memories of the first Christmas  
you were away from home as an adult.**

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*Hope to hear from  
you by November.*

*Submit your story by  
November 15*

To

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

*Guests Are Welcome*



<http://www.mesacountygenealogy.org/>

## 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.

