

Genealogy: A Hay Stack Full Of Needles. It's The Threads I Need.

Floor:
The place
for storing
your priceless genealogy records.

Volume 30. Issue 4

December 2010

Grand Junction's First Christmas Tree, December 1882

By Edwin Price

This article was published in the Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado, December 16, 1934, page 5.

To those early pioneer settlers of Grand Junction and the Grand Valley, that first Christmas tree and the exercises that accompanied it were a great success. Everybody lent a helping hand and contributed freely in a financial way. Among the most liberal givers were the saloon men, many of whom attended. In fact the saloons were our principal business houses and were kept by men of good reputation, some who in that early day could find no other occupation at which to earn a living. The saloon was the common meeting place and the club house of the community. When solicited, the proprietors contributed freely to every worth cause. I say this in justice to them; because I solicited funds from them and their contributions made it possible for us to give the children needed gifts and make this first Christmas occasion a success.

There was no regular church organization at that time and all Christian people united in services held by the Rev. Witcher, an aged and retired preacher of the Methodist Church, South. I was elected Sunday school superintendent and Mrs. Price was the organist.

M.O. Whitehead volunteered to go up on Pinon Mesa for the Christmas tree. We had had an open winter up to that time, and it was necessary for him to ford the Colorado River in order to reach the pine forest near the saw mill which had been set up late that fall by Innes & Hobbs. At that time of the year the river was at its lowest ebb and the crossing was not dangerous. The ford, I think was about where the Main Street Bridge now stands or perhaps a little east of it. With the help of Will Smith and I think another volunteer, I believe that round trip was made in a day. They brought back two very beautiful trees, one of them 14 feet in height, which just reached to the ceiling of the dining room. The Crawford hotel had just been completed and this Christmas tree celebration was the first affair to occupy the dining hall. It stood opposite the Mesa County Bank building, now occupied by the United States Bank of Grand Junction. It was the only place in which it could have been held. Mr. Dean, no doubt has a number of old photos of the building.

We sent to Denver for the trimmings and got the very best on the market. Mrs. Price and Mrs. Connelly (mother of Wm. G. Connelly one of our first county judges and who happened to be there visiting her son). M.O. Whitehead and I spent a good many hours putting the trimmings on the tree. And then came the presents for the children and older folk. I think that all of us enjoyed the work we put upon that tree more than anything we had ever done before of the kind.

Well, when we got through, it seemed to us that it was the very finest Christmas tree that we had ever seen. Everybody was tickled over our work, as much as we were ourselves. With all your modern electrical equipment for trimming trees, I have never seen one that would surpass that tree. Then with all those presents on it, it was a treasure tree of golden fruit. It is a happy memory to this day.

Mrs. Price and some other ladies spent two weeks training the children for the exercises. Among the children we remember the Gordon sisters, Rosa and Rachael, Edward and George Gordon, Grace and Frank Steele, Carrie and Hattie Green and their brothers, Charles and James, Jennie and Henry Davis, Mary Hull, Lillie Hall, the Lapham sisters and brother, the Voorhees children, the Rev. Hutchinson's family that had just moved in, also some others whose names I cannot remember - some thirty or more children in all. We did not find a Santa Claus (a sad mistake), because we forgot to get the "whiskers".

No doubt many of those children, now ranging along about 55 and 60 years of age, are still living in or near the city of Grand Junction or in the Grand Valley and can remember that Christmas tree, and this story may help them to repeat some of the memories long forgotten to their own families and the grand children.

Continued on page 10

MESA DWELLERS



Kathie Vlahos
Editor for Mesa Dwellers
Quarterly

Although Kathie is from Illinois, she says Colorado is her favorite place to live.

On July 30, [REDACTED] Kathie Ann Strauss was born in Kankakee, Illinois to Andrew and Natalie (Hickory) Strauss. She and her two older siblings, a brother and sister, grew up in Kankakee. At 16 years old, her first job was working after school at a local dry cleaners as a clerk, making \$1.05 an hour. Babysitting was another way that she earned some extra money.

After high school, Kathie attended Kankakee Community College at Kankakee, Illinois. In [REDACTED] she was married in Chebanse, Illinois. From that marriage they had three children and were divorced after nineteen years.

In [REDACTED] she married again and moved to Montrose, Colorado. This was not the first time she had been in Colorado; she actually celebrated her first birthday in a cabin in the La Garita Mountains and then visited on other occasions. Her father had an old WW II buddy who was from Del Norte, Colorado and when she was younger her family would travel to Colorado for visits. She also came for some skiing trips in the 1990's.

Kathie always wanted to own a farm or to be a farmer! However, at some point she realized how much work a farm can be, so she became a mom, worked retail for many years and then was employed with Ameritech the telephone company in Illinois.

These days she enjoys a number of activities. She loves to swim, bicycle, hike and kayak. She and her husband are working at returning their property in Montrose back to being a natural habitat. Of course, genealogy is a passion, and she joined MCGS in 2005 and is currently the Newsletter Editor. Kathie has been researching for about nine years. Surnames she is working on; Strauss, Handorf, Denoyer, Demars.

I asked Kathie who was the oldest relative that she remembers as a child. She said her maternal grandfather. He lived to be 100 years old, 1873 – 1973. I was 19 years old when he passed away. He was the family historian and I sure wish I could remember some of the stories he told me now. He tried his hand at everything; he was a farmer, raised horses for the Canadian Calvary, ran steam plows, was a male nurse, justice of the peace, owned a restaurant, was a land broker and did whatever he had to do to support his family during the depression.

By Jan Wilson
Historian and Archivist

The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Objectives:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
2. To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
3. To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.
4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Cross Orchards – Orchards View Room, 3073 F Road, 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm - 2pm.

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Carole Moritz
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Jill Berthod

Board Members

Kathie Vlahos	<u>3 year Term</u>
Karen Grew-Ellison	2008-2009-2010
Ron Knapp	2010-2011-2012
	2009-2010-2011

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Chair-person	Donna Jackson

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members). Those with unpaid dues after April 30th of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

Contributions to the *Mesa Dwellers* are encouraged and appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

Send to: Kathie Vlahos at: [REDACTED] telephone: [REDACTED]

December 2010 – February 2011 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 1 December 2010 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg: Dennis Jenkins will moderate a RootsMagic software user group in the 2nd floor conference room of the Museum (C.D. Smith Building).
- 9 December 2010 Thursday Noon: Annual Christmas Potluck to be held at Donna Jackson's home. Topic & Directions will be sent in the reminder email.
- 13 January 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Tentative speaker/topic, Gary Brewer – *Military Records*.
- 26 January 2011 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg: Tentative Topic, *Birth Records* (speaker/moderator to be determined).
RootsMagic User Group meeting will follow the Noon Sack Lunch meeting.
- 26 January 2011 Wednesday 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at C.D. Smith Bldg: RootsMagic User Group meeting.
- 10 February 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Tentative Topic, *Marriage/Divorce Records* (speaker/moderator to be determined).
- 23 February 2011 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg: Tentative Topic, *On-Line Death Records* (speaker/moderator to be determined)
-

President's Message

It's that time of year when we are looking for a new slate of officers. As usual it is tough to get members to step up and take on the positions we elect each year at our February meeting. I hope some of you will consider serving the society as an officer. If not, at least let me know if you are able to serve on one of our committees. You may get a phone call in the next couple of months asking if you are interested in serving in some capacity.

I want to give Kudos to the Beginning Genealogy Class Committee for a job well done with the six classes held from September 30th through November 4th. My thanks go to Caley Gredig, Anita Caldwell, Kathie Vlahos, Martea Johnson and Dorothy Roper.

I'm going to plug the "Down Under Mesa County" article I submitted to the *Mesa Dwellers* for this issue. I encountered a gravestone in the Orchard Mesa Cemetery that put me on a journey to find out what the story was about that gravestone. This is related to the five "Down Under Florida" and "Down Under Utah" videos that can be viewed on www.rootstelevision.com. If you haven't seen any of these videos you might want to go to that website and check them out. I actually did a lot more research on his family than I reported in the article, but you can get a sense of possible resources available to use in your own research.

Recently Larry Eucher gave me a list of possible programs for our coming year. I will be asking members if they are interested in researching and presenting some of these topics or know of potential speakers to present them. Last year Donna Jackson made up a list of potential programs, some of which we did use during the past year. My thanks to both Donna and Larry.

Dennis Jenkins

DOWN UNDER MESA COUNTY

By Dennis Jenkins

There's a website called RootsTelevision.com that has videos covering many genealogy topics including Cemeteries. A couple years ago there were five videos loaded onto the site that used "Down Under" in the title. Three were called "Down Under Florida" and two called "Down Under Utah". They start with the researchers noticing an interesting gravestone and following that up with the question - "What's the story behind this gravestone?" The videos take you through a research journey that can give clues to how we might research our own ancestors. I recently had a gravestone that caught my eye. The following is an account of the research steps I took to answer the questions I had about that gravestone.

A little over a year ago Sue Chapman with the Whitewater Cemetery Association contacted Bob Cress and me to see if we knew where Captain George Lewis Gaylord was buried. Whitewater Cemetery is located in Whitewater, Mesa County, Colorado. According to their records he was originally buried in the Whitewater Cemetery and appeared to have been moved to another cemetery.¹ The date he was moved is unknown.

I looked at our Mesa County Genealogical Society website [REDACTED] to see if George was listed in our Mesa County, Colorado cemetery burial database. I found him and it listed that he was born Sept. 16, 1826 in Otisco, New York, died July 9, 1894 and was buried in Orchard Mesa Cemetery.² The only other Gaylord in our database was Lewis Gaylord.

Bob and I went to the sexton's office to get the location of the grave. The sexton's records show that an E. K. Gaylord bought three grave site plots for \$54, contract no. 45 in Block A, Row 1 of Orchard Mesa Cemetery. There was no date for the purchase, but it gave E. K. Gaylord's address as c/o Oklahoma City News, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. George was buried in grave site number 3 with a stone. It is unknown if anyone was buried in grave site number 1. The sexton's record also said there was a gravestone for Lewis in grave site number 2 and that \$5.00 was paid on 30 August 1952 to bury Lewis' ashes at the foot of George's grave.³

We walked over to the grave and Bob took a photo of Capt. Geo. Gaylord's gravestone as you can see here:



Next to George's gravestone was another stone which had the following engraved on it: Lewis Gaylord - June 26, 1871 - March 29, 1952.



This raised another question as to who Lewis Gaylord was. Since Lewis was also the middle name of Captain Gaylord, it would appear to be his son. I went to the Mesa County Public Library and looked for a George Lewis Gaylord in the obituary database and found that there were three newspaper issues that had information about him. One was a death notice⁴, one was a funeral notice⁵ and the third was his obituary. The obituary mentioned that George was married to Eunice M. Edwards after his service as a Captain in the Union Army in the Civil War. It mentioned that they had two sons, Lewis who was a senior at the State University and Edward who was a sophomore in Colorado College.⁶ This answered my question about the gravestone for Lewis Gaylord, although I am now wondering what happened to Eunice M. Gaylord.

Additional questions came to mind including where Lewis died and if I could find an obituary for him. I checked in the death records online at Ancestry.com and found that he died in Ventura County, California.⁷ To locate an obituary, I contacted the Public Library in Ventura, CA and they searched for a 2 week period after his death in 2 local papers, but did not find an obituary.⁸ Later on I checked with the Public Library in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, after finding out that E. K. Gaylord was living there from 1902 to 1974. Unfortunately that library was also unable to find an obituary for him.⁹

My next search involved the U. S. census records. Since Lewis was born in 1871, I checked for the family on the 1880 census and found the family living in Denver, Colorado. It listed G.L. Gaylord as having been born in New York, his wife Unice (Eunice) M. was born in Massachusetts and their two sons Lewis and Edwards were born in Kansas.¹⁰ On the 1885 census for Mesa County, Colorado, George, Emma (Eunice), Lewis, Edwards and Eunice's sister Caroline Edwards are enumerated in the same household.¹¹ I looked in the 1900 census and did not find Eunice Gaylord living in Mesa County or in Colorado for that matter. Instead I found her as a widow living in Southampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts nearby her sister Caroline Edwards and a George K. Edwards who appeared to be a relative.¹² To verify any possible relationship, I checked the 1860 census and found Eunice, Caroline, and George in the household of Elisha and Eunice Edwards enumerated in Southampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.¹³ I also did a search for the Elisha Edwards family on the 1850 census, and found the family in Southampton including George, Caroline and Eunice plus two more siblings.¹⁴ I was able to locate George, Caroline and Eunice on the 1910¹⁵ and 1920¹⁶ censuses, but I was unable to find them on the 1930 census.

Though I would need more information, it is possible that Eunice (Edwards) Gaylord died between 1920 and 1930 in the Southampton area. Though I still do not know where Eunice was buried, I now understand why she is not buried next to George Gaylord in Mesa County, Colorado.

My curiosity turned to the two sons who were in college on the Eastern slope of Colorado at the time of their father's death. I wondered what happened to them. So I looked for them in the census records on Ancestry.com as well as newspapers in genealogybank.com. I was able to find Edwards King (E. K.) Gaylord on the 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses. In the 1900 census E. K. was in Cripple Creek, Colorado listed as a clerk¹⁷ and on the next three censuses he was living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma listed 1910 as a Newspaper Manager¹⁸, in 1920 as a Publisher¹⁹, and in 1930 as the President of a Publishing Company.²⁰

I was able to find Lewis on the 1900, 1910, and 1930 censuses. In 1900 Lewis was listed as a publisher, though he was enumerated while he was a patient in a hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado.²¹ In 1910, I found him listed as an advertiser for a newspaper while being enumerated in Kalamazoo, Michigan.²² I did not find him on the 1920 census, but in 1930 he was involved in advertising

for a newspaper in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma²³, which quite possibly was the Daily Oklahoman that he brother E. K owned. In 1930, E. K. was living in his own home valued at \$22,000²⁰, while Lewis was renting his home for \$95 per month. On this census it also shows that Lewis got married about 1917 and had a daughter born about 1924 in Illinois.²³

I conducted newspaper searches at GenealogyBank.com, a subscription site that has a large newspaper collection. I also Googled, Lewis and E. K. Gaylord to see what was online. I was able to determine that in the Fall of 1895, about a year after their father's death, Lewis and E. K. were able put together \$6,000 of their own money and an additional \$6,000 loan to buy into the Colorado Springs Gazette.²⁴ In 1901, with Lewis now President of the company, they sold the paper for over \$90,000.²⁵ The two brothers then invested in part ownership of the St. Joseph Dispatch newspaper in St. Joseph, Missouri. Lewis appeared to be the one leading both investments. In 1902, E. K. got interested in what was happening in Oklahoma Territory and went to Oklahoma City to buy into a newspaper there.²⁶ His brother Lewis eventually sold the St. Joseph Dispatch and headed for New York City where he was involved in the advertising field. I found one article from the Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph that had an account of Lewis on business in St. Louis, Missouri in 1914 and was lauded for his heroics when the hotel he was in caught on fire and he was credited with saving 13 lives, including a blind man.²⁷

From his start with the Oklahoma Daily newspaper in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma until his death in 1974 at the age of 101, Edward(s) King Gaylord and his son Edward Lewis Gaylord were able to amass a media and entertainment empire. This empire at one time included the Nashville network, Grand Ole Opry, Broadmoor Hotel, numerous television and radio stations, and newspapers all once worth over a billion dollars.^{26,28} All the while E. K. Gaylord's older brother Lewis would move from St. Joseph, Missouri to New York to work in advertising in early 1902. He appears on the census in Michigan in 1910, gets married about 1917, has a daughter born in Illinois about 1924, and by 1930 appears to be working for his brother as a newspaper advertising manager. He dies in Ventura, California in 1952, though the reason he is there is unknown. Although the two brothers had similar prosperous journeys in life, they appear to have ended differently.

As of the writing of this article, I have answered many of my questions, but not all of them. I still don't have the date that George's remains were moved to Orchard Mesa Cemetery. If I could find the date that E. K. Gaylord purchased the grave sites, it would most likely be when the remains of his father were moved. Since E. K. was already associated with the Oklahoma Daily News when he bought the grave sites, George's remains would most likely have been moved after 1903. E. K and Lewis were not married until about 1914 and 1917 respectively. It is possible that E. K. may have bought the 3 grave sites for himself, his brother and their father between 1903 and 1914. One possible way to get that date would be if E. K. Gaylord's records have been preserved in an archive.

Sources:

1. E-mail and telephone conversation with Sue Chapman, Whitewater Cemetery Association. [Bob Cress e-mail: 5 May 2009 and Dennis Jenkins telephone: 6 June 2009]

2. Mesa County Genealogical Society, compilers. "Mesa County Cemeteries Burial Index." Database. Mesa County (CO) Genealogical Society <http://www.gimesa.com/mcgs/>: 2006.

3. Grand Junction Cemeteries (Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado), sexton's records, Grave Site binder: Block "A", Row "1" to Row "10", Orchard Mesa Cemetery: Ed Gaylord, Block A, Row 1, G. S. 1, 2 and 3.

4. George L. Gaylord death notice, Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado, 10 July 1894, page 1, column 2.

5. George L. Gaylord funeral notice, Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado, 11 July 1894, page 4, column 2.

6. G. L. Gaylord obituary, Grand Junction News, Grand Junction, Colorado, 10 July 1894, page 1, column 2.

7. Ancestry.com. California Death Index, 1940-1997 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.

8. Reference question request from eLibrary, "Lewis Gaylord obituary," e-mail message from <reference.librarian@ventura.org> (Ventura, California) to Dennis Jenkins, 30 Jun 2010.

9. Ask A Librarian, "Lewis Gaylord obituary," e-mail message from <askalibrarian@mls.ok.us> (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) to Dennis Jenkins, 30 Jun 2010.

10. 1880 U. S. census, population schedule, Arapahoe County, Colorado, National Archives micropublication T9, roll 88, 673 Stout Street, Denver, ED 15, page 316, sheet 19C, dwell/fam 150/189, G. F. (L.) Gaylord household, lines 24-27. <<http://www.mcpld.org/HeritageQuest> online.

11. 1885 Colorado census, inhabitants schedule, Mesa County, Colorado,; National Archives micropublication M158, roll 6. ED 1, page 11, dwell/fam 199/213, Geo. L Gaylord household, lines 30-34.
12. 1900 U. S. census, population schedule, Hampshire County, Massachusetts,; National Archives micropublication T623, roll 654. Southampton, ED 649, page 191, sheet 2B, dwell/fam 53/53, Eunice Gaylord household, line 95.
13. 1860 U. S. census, population schedule, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, National Archives micropublication M653, roll 505. Southampton, page 164, dwell/fam 1257/1256, Elisha Edwards household, lines 26-31.
14. 1850 U. S. census, population schedule, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, National Archives micropublication M432, roll 320. Southampton, page 61, dwell/fam 1/1, Elisha Edwards household, lines 1-7.
15. 1910 U. S. census, population schedule, Hampshire County, Massachusetts,; National Archives micropublication T624, roll 594. East Street, Southampton Town, ED 714, page 58, sheet 2A, dwell/fam 31/32, Eunice M. Gaylord household, line 21.
16. 1920 U. S. census, population schedule, Hampshire County, Massachusetts,; National Archives micropublication T625, roll 705. East Street, Southampton Town, ED 182, page 128, sheet 2B, dwell/fam 39/42, Oscar E. Johnson household, Eunice Gaylord on line 67.
17. 1900 U. S. census, population schedule, Teller County, Colorado,; National Archives micropublication T623, roll 129. Heritage Quest Online via <mcpld.org>, Eaton Avenue, Cripple Creek, ED 126, page 75, sheet 17A, Dwell/Fam 404/434, Julia Braun household, Edward K. Gaylord on line 42.
18. 1910 U. S. census, population schedule, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Archives, micropublication T624, roll 1265. 1020 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, ED 201, page 243, sheet 4B, dwell/fam 53/53, Henry Martin household, Edward Gaylord on line 91.
19. 1920 U. S. census, population schedule, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, USA,; National Archives micropublication T625, roll 1473. 200 West 19th Street, Oklahoma City, ED 125, page 269, sheet 7A, dwell/fam 131/ 171, E. K. Gaylord household, lines 47-50 (also Nurse on line 1 sheet 7B).
20. 1930 U. S. census, population schedule, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma,; National Archives micropublication T626, roll 1918. West 19th, Oklahoma City, ED 45, page 113, sheet 8A, dwell/fam 140/191, Edwards K. Gaylord, lines 35-40.
21. 1900 U. S. census, population schedule, El Paso County, Colorado,; National Archives micropublication T623, roll 124. Patient in hospital, Huerfano Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado, ED 28, page 252, sheet 39B, dwell/fam 759/922, St. Francis Hospital, Lewis Gaylord on line 72.
22. 1910 U. S. census, population schedule, Kalamazoo County, Michigan,; National Archives micropublication T624, roll 654. 815 Rose, Kalamazoo City, ED 147, page 126, sheet 18A, dwell/fam 378/405, Augusta Bodamer household, Lewis Gaylord on line 2.
23. 1930 U. S. census, population schedule, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, 414 M Rd & 24th Street, Oklahoma City, ED 50, page 203, sheet 3B, dwell/fam 51/63, Lewis Gaylord household, lines 64-66.
24. E. K. Gaylord's Pioneer Roots, NewsOK.com online [<http://stage.newsok.com/pioneer-roots/article/862193>], accessed 13 June 2009.
25. "The Telegraph Changes Ownership", The Telegraph, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 21 November 1901, page 5, columns 3 & 4. [Online: <http://www.genealogybank.com>].
26. "Edward Gaylord Dies at Age 101", Obituary, Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas, 1 June 1974, Section B, page 10. [Online: <http://www.genealogybank.com>].
27. "Lewis Gaylord, Former Springs Man, Rescues Blind Man and Dozen others in St. Louis Fire", Colorado Springs Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 10 March 1914, page 2, columns 1 & 2. [Online: <http://www.genealogybank.com>].
28. "Edward L. Gaylord dies at 83", Obituary, The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 28 April 2003. [Online: http://www.rootsweb.com/~okoklaho/obit/gaylord_edward_l.htm].

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC)

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) currently includes 147 newspapers published in Colorado from 1859 to 1923. Newspapers come from 60 cities and 40 counties throughout the state, and contain papers published in English, German, Spanish, or Swedish. CHNC provides access to over 477,000 digitized pages from these newspapers. Digitization of additional newspapers continues through contributions made by local libraries, museums, and other organizations. Newspapers are digitized from microfilm copies owned by the Colorado Historical Society.

You can access CHNC at: <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

Julian and Gregorian Calendars

Larry C. Eucher

As genealogists, we see references to dates all the time. When I was first researching some of my Quaker lines, I saw documented events like "Moorman, Elizabeth, b. 1737/38, 2, 9". What's going on here? My first reaction was that someone wasn't sure of the year. It was only later that I realized the date was a dual date referring to the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

The Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 BC, has a regular year of 365 days divided into twelve months, with a leap day added to February every four years. The solar year, which determines the cycle of seasons, is actually about 11 minutes shorter. The extra 11 minutes in the Julian calendar causes it to gain about three days per century relative to things like equinox times and the seasons. As a result, calendar events like the calculated date of Easter (established at the Council of Nicea in 325) slowly moved out of phase with the March equinox. By 1582, Easter was ten days out of alignment, and other church holidays were not occurring in their proper season. At that time, Pope Gregory XIII addressed this problem by dropping three leap year days across every four centuries. The Gregorian reform in essence corrects the leap year error of the Julian calendar.

The Gregorian calendar was quickly adopted by most Catholic countries such as Spain, Portugal, and Italy. Protestant countries followed at a later time. In the British Empire, including what were at the time the American Colonies, Wednesday September 2, 1752 was followed by Thursday September 14, 1752. Sweden used a modified Julian calendar from 1700 until 1753 and then adopted the Gregorian calendar. Russia remained on the Julian calendar until 1918 (February 1 became February 14 that year). Greece continued to use the Julian calendar until 1924.

And just to make things even more confusing, the various calendar systems used a different day for the start of the New Year. The Julian calendar continued the old Roman calendar designation of March as the start of a new year. But under the influence of Christianity, during the Medieval Period many European countries began to associate the start of the New Year with important Christian holidays such as December 25 (the Nativity), March 25 (Annunciation), and Easter.

In common usage, 1 January was regarded as New Year's Day and celebrated as such, but from the 12th century until 1751 the legal year in England began on 25 March. So, for example, the Parliamentary record lists the execution of Charles I as occurring in 1648 (as the year did not end until March), although modern histories adjust the start of the year to 1 January and record the execution as occurring in 1649. Most European countries changed their official start of the New Year to January 1 in the Sixteenth Century, shortly before they adopted the Gregorian calendar.

During the period between 1582, when the first countries adopted the Gregorian calendar, and 1923, when the last European country adopted it, it was common to indicate the date of an event in both the Julian calendar and in the Gregorian calendar, for example, "10/21 February 1750/51". The dual day difference represents the accumulated leap error of the Julian calendar. The dual year accounts for some countries already beginning their numbered year on 1 January, while others were still using some other date. Occasionally, you will see a date with the reference "O.S." next to it and this refers to Old Style, or the Julian system of dating, as compared to "N.S.", the New Style or Gregorian system of dating, and sometimes a dual date is given according to both systems.

So when was my Elizabeth Moorman born? She was born the 9th day of the second month in the dual year of 1737/1738. Since we are in the Virginia Colony before the English change-over year of 1753, the second month refers to April. The Julian year is 1737, and the Gregorian year is 1738. Using our modern dating (Gregorian) system, she was born 9 April 1738.

One last comment, when looking at old tombstones, especially in the 18th Century, one often sees a date of death and the age of the deceased in years, months, and days. Why do you suppose that was commonly done? When a person was born before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar and died after it was adopted, it would have been a fair amount of effort for the stone cutter to calculate and record all the various dates. I suspect that it was easier (and took less space) to just give the date of death and the person's age in years, months, and days, and that became the customary way of doing things. By the middle of the 19th Century, this confusion factor of dual dates had passed. All dates are Gregorian, and we see full dates being inscribed for both the birth and death dates.

Submitted by Larry C. Eucher, 22 Oct 2010

Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information?

By Dick Eastman

This morning I received a message from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, "I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet." He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information.

I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: "...but only through the internet."

Doesn't he realize that 98% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the internet?

To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the "low hanging fruit" a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefited a lot of genealogist; these data bases were the first to become indexed digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are available today and are in common use.

As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online.

Of course, this is great news for genealogist who cannot easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept. For many of us, this is even better than having information on microfilm. Most of us don't have microfilm readers at home, but we do have computers.

Yet, I am guessing that 98% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized. Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information "...only through the internet?"

State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all "work in progress" projects. That is they are not yet complete. In fact I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another two decades! If you only look online, you are missing a lot.

In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, most land records (other than Federal land grants), and many more records are not yet available online and probably won't be available for years. If you are limiting yourself to "...only through the internet," you are missing 98% of the available information.

If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I'd suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hands. Make photocopies or scan them or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records.

If you do not enjoy the luxury of short distances, use microfilm. Luckily, that is easy to do although you will have to leave your home. Many (but not all) of these records have been microfilmed, and those films may be viewed at various libraries, archives, or at a local Family History Center near you. There are more than 4,000 of those local centers, so you probably can find one within a short distance of your home. The Family History Centers are free to use although you do have to pay a modest fee for postage when you rent a microfilm by mail. See http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp

If you do not know where to start, I would suggest reading the applicable Research Guides found at http://www.familysearch.org/eng/home/welcome/frameset_information.asp and at http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp

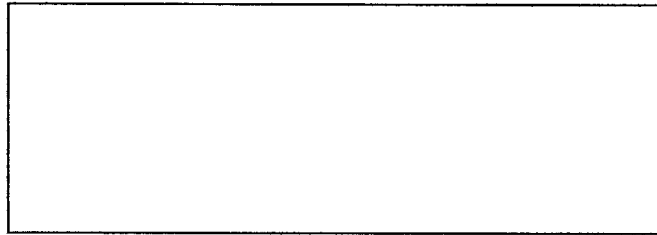
Which option would you prefer: accessing 2% of the available records or 98% of the available records or 100% of the available records?

Posted by Dick Eastman on 20 October, 2010

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>

Mesa County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1506
Grand Junction, CO
81502-1506



Continued from page 1

Another party was held that night at the Randall house; it was a dance and a supper. It was well attended too and those taking part were as happy as if they were dancing in one of the well appointed ball rooms of the Brown Palace hotel in Denver. This was the pioneer spirit, and it went a long way toward softening the hardships and privations of uncomfortable surroundings.

The hotels had just been rushed to completion after arrival of the first freight train to cross the Colorado River railroad bridge on November 21, 1882 carrying lumber and supplies. (Mrs. Price came in on that train after spending two days in Delta with the family who kept the railroad section house waiting for the completion of the bridge across the Colorado). There was great need for the hotels as visitors were arriving daily. Grand Junction was growing and making progress.

J. Armitage Hall, our village shoemaker, organized and conducted the first Sunday school in July 1882. He also kept a daily dairy of the arrivals, doings and happenings or events of the years 1882 and 1883. He arrived from Gunnison in the spring of 1882 and was quite familiar with the train of happenings that attended the opening of the reservation. His records furnished the data from which was printed the first history of Mesa County, edited and published by Charles W. Haskell in 1886. Hall was drowned in crossing the Gunnison River near the Rubideaux Creek Bridge in 1887 or 1888 on his return from a trip to Gunnison.

I've reprinted this Christmas story from Mesa Dweller Publication, Volume XIII, Number 4, December 1993 to celebrate Mesa County Genealogical Societies 30th Anniversary "Blast from the Past" and also to give a glimpse of Christmas cheer past from the Grand Junction area. We would like to thank everyone for your help and support with the newsletter this year. Have a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! From the Editor, Kathie Vlahos and Assistant Editor, Karen Grew-Ellison.