**If A Man Cares Not For His Roots, Then How
Can He Care For His Branches? Doyle M. Davis**

Volume 30, Issue 1

March 2010

Genealogy is just chasing your
own tale!**Mesa County Genealogical Society's 30th Anniversary!**

This is Mesa County Genealogical Societies 30th year, and I will be bringing you bits and pieces of its history from the newsletters over the years of 1980 through 2010 in three separate parts, decade by decade. So, here we go, a little history, this is part one of three, so sit back and enjoy the time machine.

It all started back in 1980 when the Mesa County Genealogical Society was established. The first newsletter came out 29 May 1981; it contained regular monthly meeting information, materials available for research and upcoming events. The meetings were the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Valley Federal Friendship Room. The first speaker was Judy Prosser on 4 June 1981, from the Museum of Western History, discussing resource books and material available on microfilm.

Dues were \$10.00 in 1981, later changed to \$10.00 for singles and \$12.00 for families.

The goal of the Society was chronicled in the third newsletter in 1981 in the President's Message: The object of forming the Mesa County Genealogical Society was to accomplish the following: Share the knowledge we have; Help each other with problems; Provide classes and speakers; Serve the community by collecting and preserving records.

The first elected officers in 1981 were: Pat Allen, President; Betty Buffington, Vice President; Alice Devine, Secretary; Gene George, Historian; Phyliss George, Corresponding Secretary and Dorothy Inscho, Treasurer. Later in 1982 they were joined by Martel Johnson, Publicity and the staff for the Quarterly Publication: (yet unnamed) Gene George, Publisher; Cynthia Hoyt, Typing; Betty Buffington and Harriet Hamlin, Printing; Betty Buffington, Phyliss George and Dorothy Inscho, Mailing.

The name of "Mesa Dwellers" was decided upon for the Quarterly.

There were 27 members in 1981, 1985 there were 40 members, and in 1989 there were 36 members.

Since 1981 there have been some changes in technology that makes areas of genealogy much easier and faster.

For example:

Then: Gene George brings his photo copying camera to make negatives of member's old photos. The only charge is 10 cents per negative for film and developing solution.

Now: We can use our digital cameras and scanners for reproduction and saving of old photos and documents.

Then: 1982, it is suggested that smoking be banned in all meetings.

Now: Smoking banned by state law in most public places.

Then: Newsletter was typed on a typewriter, xeroxed and a paper copy was taken to the printer to be duplicated for mailing.

Now: Newsletter is composed on a computer program, which can easily be edited and put on a CD to be taken to the printer for duplicating and then mailing.

Then: Share meetings used catalogs for reference materials.

Now: Share meetings usually use the computer and explore the internet for websites with, "at your fingertips" information.

Then: If you needed a birth, marriage or death certificate, you had to write a letter with a self addressed envelope with your check or money order, then wait six weeks or more.

Now: Many County agencies have an internet access that you can order the certificate online, pay right away and receive your certificate much quicker. On some sites you can even download your certificates right from their website, after you pay of course.

In summing up this first decade, I found it very interesting and a little surprising to discover that a lot of the procedures we use to learn information about our ancestors have not changed a lot. The exception to this is the capability of the computer. It has made it more convenient and less costly by being able to research from the comfort of our own homes. It has made our input, correcting and retrieving of information a lot easier. I also found, that no matter what time period, there is still a lot of valuable information in the pages of our older newsletters that is worth re-reading. I would encourage you to visit our Mesa County Genealogical Library, housed in the Museum of Western Colorado, in Grand Junction, and read over some of these older quarterlies. Don't forget also that there is quite an extensive collection of genealogical publications housed in the Library, as well as those from many other states.

Here are some interesting items to check out that I found in the Quarterlies that may be of help:

1982 Vol. II, #1 - 1986 Vol. VI, #1, has the 1883 - 1912 Mesa County Marriage Records listed.
1986 Vol. VI, #2 - 1987 Vol VII, #2, has the History of Colorado, biographies of local people.
1988 Vol. VIII, #2 - 1989 Vol IX, #4, has the 1907 Grand Junction City and Mesa County Directory.
There are even some old family recipes from members in the 1988 Vol. VIII, #4 quarterly.

If you have any information or pictures to contribute from the early days of the Mesa County Genealogical Society they would be greatly appreciated. Send or give to Kathie Vlahos or Karen Grew-Ellison

MESA DWELLERS

2010 Family History Symposium

Buy your syllabus now! Mark your calendar and clear your schedule on Saturday, April 17, 2010 for the Grand Valley Family History Symposium at the Grand Junction Stake Center, 2881 Orchard Ave, Grand Junction, Colorado.

This year there will not be any exhibits or organization booths – hence the name change to “symposium” from “fair”. The doors open at 6:45 a.m. for registration, followed by a general meeting for all at 7:15 a.m. and the 1st of the 23 different classes start at 8:00 a.m. Several of the classes are given in two parts, so be sure to read your schedule.

With a theme “**Connecting the Present to the Past**” through Technology, Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom here are the instructors and class names:

Adam Cochran:	Photography for Family History and Fun (Part 1 & 2)
Allen Graves:	What's New in Computerized Family History Tools
Barbara Baker:	Major Genealogical Records of Great Britain; what's New at Family Search.org
Daniel Horowitz:	My Heritage Research – Genealogy Search Engine; Face Recognition and Photo Tagging for Genealogy Research
David Dilts:	How to Solve Really Tough Research Problems; Civil War Research
Dennis Jenkins:	Heritage Quest (Part 1 & 2)
Don Norton:	The Many Different Ways to Compose Personal History; Preserving and Reproducing Photographs: Essays and Episodes; Journal Writing
Gaylon Findlay:	Ancestral Quest 12.1 (AQ 12.1) Features, Beyond PAF 5; Ordinance Reservation and Tracking System Using AQ 12.1; Keeping PAF Data in Sync with New Family Search Using AQ 12.1 (Part 1 & 2)
Janet Horvorka:	The GPS – Genealogical Proof Standard; Where to Start When You Inherit Genealogy
Kathy Barnard:	Beginning and Continuing Genealogy (Part 1 & 2)
Rick Castelelli:	Understanding Computers
Sandy Keltner:	Most Common Probate Documents – Colonial Period to Civil War; Locating and Evaluating Genealogical Evidence using a Case Study
Susan Stohl:	Family History Catalog: Portal to Worlds Records (Part 1 & 2)

February 2010 Karen Grew-Ellison

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 Chair-persons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Membership-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 written or typed 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] or telephone: [REDACTED]

March – June 2010 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- March 11 Thursday Evening Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – Share *Family Legends, Stories, Traditions and Black Sheep* of your family. Have you been able to prove them accurate, partly true or false?
- March 24 Wednesday Noon Meeting – We will revisit the *Use of FaceBook.com and MyFamily.com*.
- March 25 Thursday 9 a.m. – Mesa County Public Library computer class: *Google Tips for Genealogist*, by Kay Oxer.
- April 8 Thursday Evening Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – Topic/Speaker to be announced later.
- April 17 Saturday – Family History Symposium at LDS Stake/Family History Center, *Connecting to the Past Through Technology, Knowledge, Understanding & Wisdom* (7:15 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.).
- April 28 Wednesday Noon Meeting – Topic to be announced later.
- May 13 Thursday Evening Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – *Medical Records, Causes of Death, Etc.* by Dr. Vernon O'Dell.
- May 26 Wednesday Noon Meeting – National Geographic's "*Journey of Man*".
- June 10 Thursday Evening Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – Tentative program: We will meet at the Orchard Mesa Cemetery at 6:00 p.m. for a Tour led by Dave Fishell.
-

President's Message

Check out these two new television programs that should interest genealogists and family historians.

PBS TV has been broadcasting a 4 part series called "Faces of America" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. They started on Wednesday February 10, 2010 and will end on March 3, 2010. Professor Gates explores the family histories of 12 renowned Americans. If you miss any of the episodes, you can go to <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/facesofamerica/>.

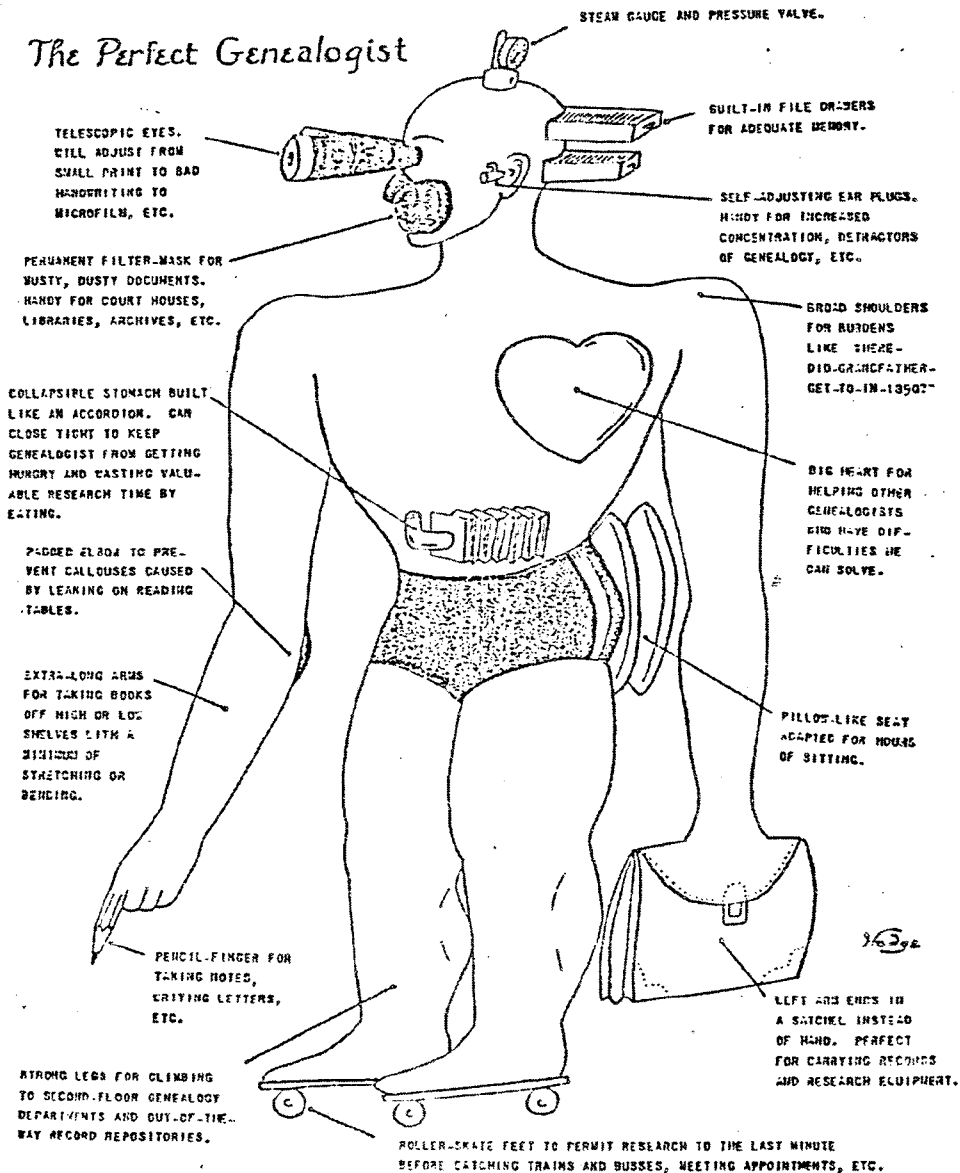
A second television series will begin on Friday, March 5, 2010. NBC TV is hosting "Who Do You Think You Are". This is an adaptation of the award-winning hit British television documentary series. They will be looking into the family histories of seven celebrities including Sarah Jessica Parker, Susan Sarandon, Spike Lee, Matthew Broderick, Brooke Shields, Emmitt Smith and Lisa Kudrow. You can check it out at <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>.

I would like to remind everyone that you can sign up in advance for the April 17, 2010 Family History Symposium to be held at the LDS Stake located at 2281 Orchard Avenue just West of 29 Road. You can go to the Family History Center at the location above and pre-register, purchase a copy of the Syllabus for \$6.25, and get a lunch ticket for \$4.75. The hours of the Family History Center are: Tues. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. You can also get a ticket for the Door Prize Drawing held at 4:40 p.m. just after the last presentations. Note that you will need to be present to win a prize.

Last month we had our elections and our officers are President – Dennis Jenkins, Vice President – Carole Moritz, Secretary – Donna Jackson, Treasurer – Jill Berthod, and Board of Directors member for 2010 – 2012 – Karen Grew-Ellison.

If you haven't been aware, Kay Oxer is presenting genealogy classes at the Mesa County Public Library. To check it out at www.mcpld.org – click on **Events**, and then click on **Computer Classes** to see the current schedule for all their classes including Kay's. Then you can call, 970-243-4442 or stop in at the library to sign up.

Dennis Jenkins



Take from the Mesa Dwellers, Volume VI, Number 3, 1986

Members in the Summer of 1981:

Patricia Allen
 Virginia Berioni
 Betty Buffington
 Alice and Miles Devine
 Larrie Jean Ferguson
 Fay Foster
 Gene and Phyliss George
 Harriet Hamlin
 Marlene Hardesty
 Dana Ann Howell
 Cindy and Randy Hoyt

Emma Lou Hurt
 Dorothy Inscho
 Martea Johnson
 Dorothy Layman
 Ellen McCluir
 Billie and Chs. Richardson
 Ralph Sparks
 Elizabeth Seifert
 Alice Spengler
 Barbara and Burl Starr
 Faith Stebbins

Marcia Tilley
 Marian Ward
 Edgar and Madge Warner
 Imogene Wiley
 Donna Young

Taken from the July 22, 1981 Mesa County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Streets Named for Settlers

By Kathy Jordan

Why and how towns, streets and formations were named intrigues me and I thought it might be that way for others. So here are a few for you.

Grand Junction was chosen for our city's name because of the junction of the Gunnison and the Colorado rivers. It wasn't until 1921 that the Grand River was changed to the Colorado River by an act of Congress. However, the first post office was called Ute.

In the early days Grand Junction was nicknamed "Belly-Ache Flats" because each summer many early settlers suffered (and died) each summer from dysentery and typhoid from drinking the Colorado (Grand) River water.

Crawford Avenue was named for Gov. George A. Crawford, president of the Grand Junction Town Company and considered the founder of Grand Junction. Crawford Addition, or Riverside, was named for J.A.K. Crawford who worked for the railroad, and had a brick factory near his house on Lawrence Avenue in the Crawford addition.

Henry Rood, for whom Rood Avenue was named, served in the state legislature. Allison White, for whom White Avenue named, was a leading citizen in the early days. Both Rood and White were members of the Grand Junction Town Company.

Crosby Avenue which parallels the railroad was named for Dave Crosby who was a commissioner for the government land office here in about 1908, and he was also in the real estate business.

Kimball Avenue was probably named for the family of Kimballs who settled in the De Beque area around 1882. The Kimball's were first to bring cattle in any large number to the area in 1883.

Struthers Avenue is said to have been named for Alex Struthers, the master mechanic for the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. He was one of the first to build in that area.

Noland Avenue evidently was named for C.P. (Perry) Noland who was a member of the firm of Noland, Moore & Co. a dry goods store on Main Street before the turn of the century.

Ouray Avenue was named for Chief Ouray, chief of all the Ute Indians at the time they were forced out of the area into Utah opening up the country for settlement by the whites.

Chipeta Avenue was named for Ouray's wife. She was said to be the perfect wife, attractive, intelligent and kept house and was a generous hostess.

Gunnison Avenue was named for Captain J.W. Gunnison who surveyed this area into Utah, where he was murdered by the Indians in June of 1853.

The original town plat named the first four parks Walnut (now Hawthorn), Chestnut, (now Washington), Cottonwood (now Emerson) and Maple (now Whitman). Neither Lincoln Park nor Riverside were part of the original town. Whitman was named for Marcus Whitman, explorer and missionary, who swam the river here in 1842 in his dramatic ride to "save Oregon for the U.S."

The Bookcliffs were named because of the way in which the long line of cliffs resembles the opening pages of a book. Apparently Bookcliff Avenue was so named because it ran along the route of the Little Bookcliff Railway.

Lawrence Avenue got its name from W.B. Lawrence, an early resident of Grand Junction and city treasurer in the early days.

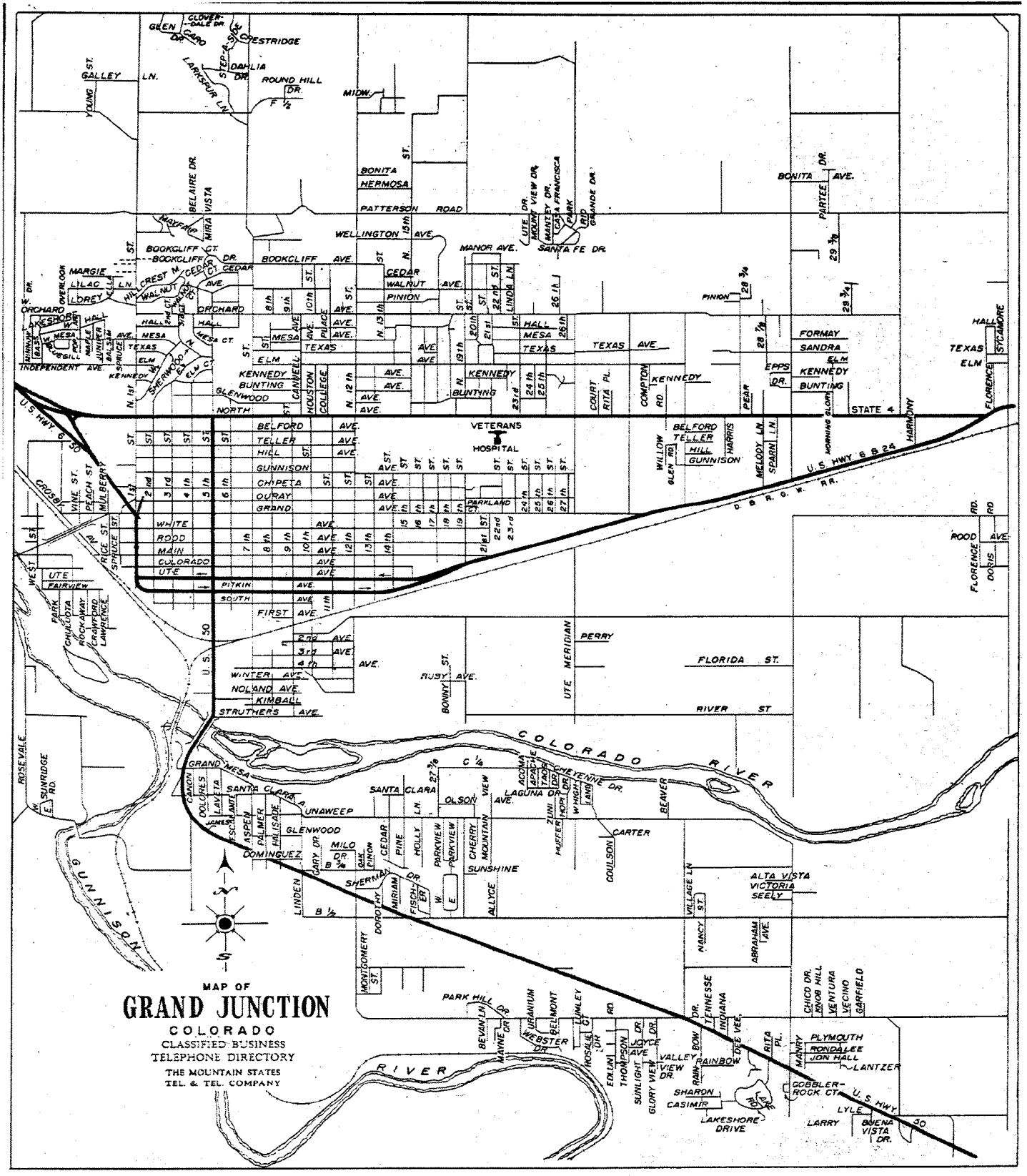
Mantey Heights was named for Fred Mantey, a saddle maker and a pioneer resident who first lived on North Seventh Street before developing and moving to Mantey Heights.

Patterson Road was named for Henry Patterson Sr., who farmed on Patterson road.

No one knows who named the three fruitridges on First Street. Early residents remember when First Fruitridge was known as Poverty Hill, maybe in sarcasm since some of the finer old homes were built out there very early.

This of course is not all inclusive, but perhaps it is a start.

Printed with permission from Kathy Jordan as it appeared in the Daily Sentinel, December 2009. Submitted by Karen Grew-Ellison – See page 6 for Map of Grand Junction Area



Map of Grand Junction and Area, taken from the 1962 Mountain States Telephone Directory

Genealogy Myths: Real, Fool's Gold, or Both?

Family Stories are a wonderful thing. They often give you insights into the lives of your ancestors. However, beware! Not all family stories are true. Many such stories are fictional. Yet, even the stories that are either entirely or part fiction may contain clues to facts. Good genealogical practice requires that we admit the fiction. But the next step the genealogist takes separates art from science. Before we discard these stories altogether, we need to mine them for nuggets of truth. Let's look at a few of the more common "family legends" to see which ones you can mine for real gold.

Myth #1: Our name was changed at Ellis Island.

Fact: No evidence whatsoever exists to suggest this ever occurred. In fact, Ellis Island had rigid documentation requirements. Anyone who arrived at Ellis Island without proper documents from "the old country" proving the person's name and providing other required information was sent back at the shipping company's expense. In fact, the shipping companies obviously knew this and always checked for proper documentation before allowing any passengers to board the ship in Europe or the British Isles.

Many People assume that there was a language barrier at Ellis Island and that millions were admitted under different names because immigration officials could not communicate with the newly-arrived travelers from many lands. This is also fallacy. Ellis Island hired a small army of interpreters. The interpreters spoke the required languages fluently. Most were either prior immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants who learned their mother tongue as children. No immigrant was ever admitted until after answering multiple questions, usually through an interpreter on the Ellis Island payroll.

One interpreter at Ellis Island was Fiorello La Guardia, who would later become famous as the mayor of New York City, responsible for cleaning up the corruption of Tammany Hall. He worked at Ellis Island for an annual salary of \$1,200 from 1907 to 1910 and helped thousands of Italians and other immigrants enter the country. Perhaps your Italian ancestor was admitted with the help of Fiorello La Guardia.

Thanks to the documentation verification conducted at the port of embarkation in Europe, your ancestor's names were known and proven before arriving at Ellis Island and were never changed there. A very few exceptions were made in 1945 and 1946 as refugees from the war-torn areas of World War II were sometimes admitted without documentation. Looking at Ellis Island records will almost always show the original names as first recorded in "the old country." Of course, you will find major spelling variations, as many illiterate immigrants could not spell their own names even in their native languages, much less in the still-unlearned English language. You can read more about this myth at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/07/ellis_island_an.html and at <http://eogn.com/archives.news0120.html>.

Even so, I suggest you ponder these family stories a moment before you categorically discard them. They may hold a nugget of truth that you can use to track down your immigrant ancestors. Many family names were changed in the months or years **after** arriving at Ellis Island. As immigrant families settled into their new neighborhoods, many adopted "Americanized names." Teachers, clerks, and neighbors sometimes found the original names to be difficult to pronounce; so, they frequently called these people by traditional American names. In many cases, the new immigrants or their descendants adopted the new names. Therefore, you might find yourself checking immigration records for name variants, based on clues in the stories passed down to you.

Myth #2: All the records were destroyed during the war.

Note: there are many variations of this one, such as "all records were destroyed in the flood," "all records were destroyed during the fire" and many more.

Fact: In short, it is essentially impossible to destroy all records in any catastrophe because records typically are stored in many different places. Census records are kept in one place, tax records are stored in a different location, and military pension applications are stored in a third location. One fire or one flood or even one war never destroys all the records. If you hear this myth, don't throw in the towel: search on!

Myth #3: There were three brothers who came to America. One went north, one went south and the third went west...

Fact: This is an excuse used by lazy genealogist who cannot explain why the same surname exists in different places. In fact, the families probably are not related at all. It is interesting to note that nobody ever seems to know the first names of these "three brothers." I find it amusing that nobody ever mentions "four brothers" or "five brothers." There were always three. This one is a red flag; ignore any claims of three brothers.

Myth #4: We are all descended from a Cherokee princess.

Fact: Sorry folks, but North American Indians did not have royalty. There never was any such thing as a Cherokee princess or anything similar in the Navajo, Apache, Pueblo, Abenaki, or other tribes. When Pocahontas went to England, the publicists of the seventeenth century

claimed she was a princess in order to create publicity. However, the title existed only in the imaginations of the early promoters. P.T. Barnum was also known to apply the word "princess" to some of his female Indian performers but, again, you shouldn't believe everything that P.T. Barnum claimed. There has never been a princess in the Cherokee tribe or any other North American Tribe.

If you have an Indian princess in your family tree, she must have been born in India.

Myth #5: Fact: The moment that you insist your surname was always spelled a particular way, you have just labeled yourself as a beginning genealogist. Name spellings have varied widely and, in fact, have only become standardized in the past 100 years or so. The people who created earlier records often were census takers, town clerks, tax collectors, clergymen, and other, who wrote down what they heard. In the days when most people could not read or write, many did not know how to spell their own names. When a clerk asked, "How do you spell that?" the most common answer was, "I don't know." A census taker late for dinner on a long, hot, dusty, summer day may not have cared whether a name was spelled STUART or STEWART.

For instance, my mother always spelled her maiden name as Deabay. In old records, I have found my ancestors listed with the name of Dube', Dube Deabay, Deabay, and other variations as well. My grandfather spoke two languages fluently but could not read or write either one. He never went to school and didn't know how to spell his own first or last names. His sons (my uncles) have since adopted three different spellings of their own last name. When speaking English, my grandfather always called himself Mike; but, when speaking French, he would tell you that his first name was Maxime. Some people called him Max. Every census takers spelled his names differently.

Even William Shakespeare signed his own name in different ways:

- (a) From 1612 deposition: William Shackper
- (b) 1612 Blackfriars deed: William Shakspear
- (c) 1612 Blackfriars mortgage: Wm Shakspea
- (d) His 1615 will, page 1: William Shackspere
- (e) Will, page 2: Willm. Shaksper
- (f) Will, page 3: By me William Shakspeare (often questioned as by a different hand)

Note: There is some controversy as to whether or not all these signatures were actually written by William Shakespeare. However, assuming that he was literate, we could assume that he at least dictated the spelling.

My favorite story is the man who wrote his own will in the 1600s on a large piece of parchment paper. The will was several paragraphs long. In his own handwriting, he wrote his own name three different times on the one piece of paper, using three different spellings of his own name!

Myth #6: Our ancestors came over on the Mayflower.

Fact: If every claimed Mayflower ancestor actually was on the Mayflower, that ship must have been bigger than today's cruise ships combined! In fact, William Bradford of Plymouth Plantation recorded the complete list of all 102 passengers in 1650. His hand-written list has survived and has been digitized. You can find it on the web in many places.

About half the passengers died in the first year at Plymouth. In order to claim Mayflower ancestry, you must be able to document descent from one or more of the surviving passengers listed at <http://www.rootsworld.com/~mosmd/mayfpas.htm>.

Myth #7: Our ancestor arrived on a later voyage of the Mayflower.

Fact: Sorry, folks, but the Mayflower only made one trip to Plymouth.

Myth #8: We are related to Robert E. Lee.

Fact: If all those claims are true, that must have been a very big family! In fact, the name Lee was common in Virginia and elsewhere with many different, unrelated immigrants of the name. There were then of thousands of Lees in the U.S. by the mid-1800s, and most of them are **not** related to each other. Robert E. Lee was a hero of the Confederacy, and many Southerners perhaps wished they were related to him. In fact, very few were.

Myth #9: A town in England, Norway, Germany, etc. is named for our family.

Fact: Names of towns were generally created long before people started using family names (surnames). If your ancestors came from the region in question, it is more likely that your ancestor adopted the name of the town, not the other way around. The good news is that such a story may give you the name of a town that you can check for records of your ancestral family.

Myth #10: Our ancestor was a stowaway on the ship.

Fact: That's a romantic story but rarely true. If a stowaway ever was found, he normally would be sent back in chains to "the old country" on the ship's return. Very few ever escaped and became residents of the New World. If you hear such a claim in your family, try to prove it. I doubt if you can.

Myth #11: Our ancestor was burned at the stake as a witch in New Salem, Massachusetts.

Fact: No accused witches were ever burned at the stake in North America although that did happen in Europe. Nobody ever started a fire for that purpose in Salem. All of the accused Salem witches were hanged, except for Giles Cory (also spelled Corey or Coree), who was pressed to death, a particularly cruel and painful way to die. You can find more information about poor Giles Cory at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giles_Coree.

Not all family legends are false, but they may be misleading.

Family legends may provide clues, even when they are not completely accurate. For instance, when I was growing up, I was told that our Eastman ancestors came from Salem, Massachusetts, and participated in the Salem Witch Trials. After researching the family tree for a while, I was disappointed to learn that there were no families named Eastman in Salem during the time of the witch trials. Apparently, the story was false. But wait a minute; there is more to the story.

It seems that the original immigrant named Roger Eastman and his wife Sarah did live about 25 miles north of Salem. Several of the Salem witch trial victims came from their town and, indeed, both Roger and Sarah dictated depositions telling how they believed one of their neighbors was innocent of the claims made against her. The depositions presumably were later read aloud in court in Salem.

Another ancestor, name Goodale, did live in Salem during the witch trials, and his descendants later married into the Eastman family. So, indeed we did have ancestors in Salem, but they were not named Eastman. Also, our Eastman ancestors did contribute a bit to the Salem witch trials, although apparently not in person.

While the original family legend told to me turned out to be false, it held a least two nuggets of truth confirmed with other research.

Finally, I have to list one "semi-myth." There are many variations of this, but generally, it is something like this: **"we are descended from royalty."** Another variation is **"our ancestors were rich and famous."**

Fact: This story is probably true, even though most people who make these claims have no idea of who those ancestors were or when they lived. In fact, you have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, and so on in a geometric progression. If you go back 300 years, you have roughly 3,000 ancestors. Going back a thousand years results in theoretically billions of ancestors, more people than ever lived on the face of the earth! In reality, the same ancestors will show up in multiple places in your family tree as you have multiple lines of descent from many of these people.

The odds are that at least a few of these millions or billions of ancestors were members of royal families or had money. If we could create complete family trees for thousands of years, every person on the face of the earth probably would find royal ancestors some place in the family tree. The odds of royal ancestry are overwhelming.

Almost everyone is descended from kings and queens. Your challenge is to find your royal ancestors and to document your descent from them!

Family legends are a fascinating part of who we are and where we came from. Many of the storytellers who passed down these tales surely believed them, and even those who didn't must have had a strong sense of family pride. Why would your ancestors repeat these stories if not to preserve their family's history? Be aware, however, that many family legends are false or perhaps only partly true. Ferreting out the nuggets of truth can be a fun exercise that enriches your family tree.

Check out the comments following this article posted on Eastman's URL:

http://blog.cogn.com/castmans_online_genealogy/2009/09/genealogy-myths-real-fools-gold-or-both.html

Posted by Dick Eastman on September 5, 2009 The following article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2004 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com> permission from Dick Eastman.

Correction from December 2009 MCGS Newsletter on Member Photo submitted by Jan Wilson, originally posted in September 2009 Newsletter: John Boyles is Jan's maternal great-grandfather and her paternal grandfather.

Correction for the December MCGS Newsletter on Member Robert Cress Biography: Robert was raised around central Indiana, Columbus Indiana and Nashville Indiana, not Columbus Ohio. He was the oldest of 6 children, not 5 children, 2 sisters and three brothers. He met Joyce at Lee's Drug store in Columbus Georgia, outside of Fort Benning and Joyce was 15 years old. [REDACTED] was at the 51st Material Sq. which was in Okinawa. Bob and Joyce loaded everything in an 18 foot truck, not trailer, Bob drove the truck and Joyce drove the VW bus to Denver. Bob's grandfather's cousin who was a longtime Colorado resident got Bob interested in genealogy.

Mesa County Genealogical Society

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



Kathie Vlahos
[Redacted address]



2010 US Census

It is that time again. No, not Spring, and taxes are not due till next month. Think once every 10 years. You Got It! It is time for the official enumeration of the population – the 2010 U.S. Federal Census.

According to Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States:

“The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct.”

After the American Revolution the first federal census was taken August 2, 1790. (Wow, 220 years ago!) The archived Federal Census records are kept at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, but copies are available from on-line sources and some libraries.

The actual census records and individual respondents specific data is very confidential, and by law is not available for inspection (not even to the FBI or by a Presidential request through the Secret Service) until the time requirement has passed for the 72 year privacy law. So, the 2010 information will not be available until April 1, 2082. Statistical data will be released as soon as it becomes available.

This year’s census form may well be the shortest form in the history of the U.S. Federal Census. It basically asks:

1. The number of people living or staying in the house, apt., or mobile home (I do not know why a mobile home is not a house).
2. Whether said house, apt., or mobile home is owned with a mortgage or loan; free and clear; rented; or occupied without payment of rent
3. The names, sex, age, race and relationship to the first person listed on the form, of all persons.
4. Whether a person sometimes lives or stays somewhere else.

There are also counts done of persons in institutions and other places.

In closing, I would like to ask if anyone has an article that they would like to submit on any aspect of the Census, please forward your article to Kathie Vlahos at: [Redacted]

Submitted by Karen Grew-Ellison, March 2010