

**There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children; one is roots – the other, wings.**

Many a family tree needs pruning.

Volume 30, Issue 3

September 2010

## Miller: Internet is Resource, but Not Do-All Genealogy Tool

The Internet has drastically changed how genealogy research is done. The amount of information posted on the Internet is increasing at an amazing pace every day. The ads might say you can find your complete family history by searching a Web site, but even though the Internet has billions and billions of pages filled with information, not everything is on the Internet.

When I started my research more than 30 years ago, I used a notebook, handwritten pedigree charts, Family Group Sheets and a binder for storing my information. I relied heavily on printed publications for methodology and geographic information, and spent hours looking at records on microfilm at libraries and archives.

Today, the Internet has made it easier and more convenient to research records such as censuses, passenger lists and newspapers. Ancestry, Footnote, FamilySearch and the National Archives are just a few of the thousands of sites that contain genealogical data. Some of the information is free and some is on paid subscription sites.

Although these sites have millions of records, they represent only a fraction of the records that have been preserved over the centuries of human record keeping. If only the Internet is used to collect information, the majority of family history will be missed or recorded incorrectly.

The Internet has made genealogy information more accessible to millions of people. With only a minimum amount of data, most people are able to get a quick start on their genealogy by using the Internet. It is an important part of any good research plan.

I was recently helping a woman start her family history. She knew little about her family and knew nothing about how to find the information. We were able to gather quite a bit of basic information from online census records and newspapers. But with only these sources, we were not able to make the connections necessary to continue the research. I told her the next step was to look at land records, probate records and histories (towns, county and church).

We did not find the needed records online. She would need to look at microfilmed or original records. Unfortunately, I could not convince her that the land and probate records she needed were not online. She searched online for more than two hours, insisting the information had to be there.

You must go beyond the Internet to find some records. Courthouse records, such as deeds, wills, probates and tax records are just some of the records that are still not readily available on the Internet. Many of the indexes are online, but the digitized records are less likely to be there. These records need to be accessed through the facilities where they are stored or through microfilmed copies.

It would be impossible to give a list of what genealogy information can be found on the Internet because it is changing so rapidly. There are guides, indexes, books, maps and digitized documents. These items might be found on a site dedicated to genealogy, or they might not be associated with genealogy at all. The Internet will help with genealogy research and should be utilized whenever the information is available. But the Internet is one source for information, not the only source.

The misconception that all genealogy information can be found on the internet continues to persist. Some Internet sites proclaim that everything needed for genealogy research is on their site. Many of these sites are official looking and appear to be run by experts. Do not be fooled into believing the claims.

The Internet is definitely a powerful tool for genealogical research. Checking online for information is part of a good research strategy. Just don't expect to find everything there.

*Julie Miller is a certified genealogist. She is a genealogy researcher, lecturer, and award-winning writer. If you have a genealogy question, send it to [Julie@jpmresearch.com](mailto:Julie@jpmresearch.com)*

*The above article was originally published in the Broomfield Enterprise, 27 June 2010 edition and is republished here with the permission of the author.*

# MESA DWELLERS

## In Search of Missing Newsletters

Jan Wilson has been diligently copying the old newsletters and filing them in binders for the Societies library. She has discovered several issues that are missing and is wondering if anyone would have any of these issues she could borrow and copy from, then return.

### The Issues needed are:

1998 – Volume 18, #4  
1999 – Volume 19, #1  
2000 – Volume 20, # 3 & 4  
2001 – Volume 21, # 2 & 4  
2002 – Volume 22, #1, 2 & 3  
2003 – Volume 23, #1 & 4  
2003 – Volume 24, #1  
2005 – Volume 25, #4  
2006 – Volume 26, #2, 3 & 4  
2007 – Volume 27, #3 & 4

If you would have any of these issues collecting dust on your bookshelf or in your closet, contact Dennis Jenkins, phone: [REDACTED] or at his email address: [REDACTED]

## From the Editor: I need your input....

I still would like to put member's ancestor's pictures into the newsletter. It is a good way to get an unidentified ancestor out there where they could be discovered.

I am interested in writing an article on the Indian school that had been in Grand Junction area about 1910 or so. If anyone has any information about this school, please contact Kathie Vlahos at: [REDACTED]

In upcoming newsletters I would like to include information on researching ancestors in other countries. If you have a website, article or point of information concerning research in Canada, Germany or England, please contact Kathie Vlahos at the above email address with your information.

Thank you,  
Kathie Vlahos

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5<sup>th</sup> & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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	3 year Term
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 30<sup>th</sup> 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] or telephone: [REDACTED]

## September - December 2010 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 2 September Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. - Possible Farmer's Market Booth – 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 9 September Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. - *Dating Old Photographs* by Peggy Lippoth.
- 22 September Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch: - *Upcoming 1940 Census* – We will look at Dick Eastman's Blog and the Census Bureau.
- 14 October Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. - Share Session – topic to be determined.
- 27 October Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch: We will look at the FamilySearch.org "*Online Classes*".
- 11 November Thursday Evening Meeting: 7 p.m. - Topic/Speaker to be determined.
- 9 December Thursday Noon Annual Christmas Potluck meeting.
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### President's Message

At our last couple of Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch programs we have looked at the "Classes Online" provided on the FamilySearch Website. The one we looked at on July 28 was a very good one by Tom Kemp titled "Genealogy Boot Camp". In this class he discusses how we now have such good fortune and resources available online to help in the research and preservation of our own family histories. I encourage you to check out these free classes being offered at <http://www.familysearch.org>. We will be looking at another of the over 70 classes available online at [familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) when we meet for our last Wednesday Noon meeting of 2010 on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our Society continues to look for ways to get new members to join. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> we had a booth at the Downtown Farmer's Market as a way to let attendees see who we are. We had nearly 40 people showing interest and handed out many brochures describing what the society is all about. At the time I turned in this President's message, we are expecting to discuss and vote on another Farmer's Market in September.

In addition we were able to hand out about 13 flyers describing a Beginner's Class we will be offering this Fall. You should see the particulars of these classes in this issue. The classes will be held on 6 consecutive Thursday afternoons from September 30 through November 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you consider signing up for the classes and also encourage anyone you think might be interested.

You will notice that we do not have a topic for speaker for our November 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening meeting. If any one has a topic they would like presented and/or a speaker to suggest please let me know at [REDACTED] or email me at [REDACTED]

Dennis Jenkins

*Who are you?*



## Beginning Genealogy Classes

presented by the  
**Mesa County Genealogical  
Society**

**Thursdays from 1:00pm - 3:30pm: Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 and Nov 4.  
Whitman Education Center, 4th & Ute, Grand Junction, CO.**

**\$40.00 covers the cost of all 6 classes and handouts.**

**Participants will learn the basics of genealogy including but not limited to:**

- terminology used in genealogy
- sources and documentation
- organization of your records
- use of pedigree charts and family group sheets
- genealogy computer programs available
- internet genealogy research
- and much more.....

**Deadline to register is Sept. 15, 2010. Minimum number of participants to fill the classes is 10, and the maximum accepted registrations will be 25.**

**For questions or more info, email [REDACTED]**

**Detach and mail with your check payable to the Mesa County Genealogical Society.**

**Mail to:**

**Mesa County Genealogical Society**

**P.O. Box 1506**

**Grand Junction, CO 81502**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**email** \_\_\_\_\_

## In Memoriam

### Mary Letty Halsey

July 2, 1929 – July 10, 2010

Mary Letty Halsey was born in Pictou, Colorado on July 2, 1929 to Ernest and Mary Ercelle Johnson. She passed away peacefully at Eagle Ridge of Grand Valley on July 10, 2010 at the age of 81.

Her family moved to Boulder when she was a child. Siblings included Margie Casford (deceased), Charles (deceased), and Ernest (deceased), and William Walton Johnson who lives in Auburn, California. She graduated from Boulder High and began attending college classes at CU, but she stopped to care for her ailing mother. On July 2, 1949 she married Wayne Halsey (deceased 2006). They raised three sons, Wayne Jr., Ron (deceased) and Greg (married to Donna). The family moved to Grand Junction in 1955 where Mary worked at Mountain Bell for many years and at the family business, Ute Engines Inc. Mary resigned from Mountain Bell in order to care for and assist Ron when he became a quadriplegic due to a high school wrestling accident. She assisted Ron with his work and civic projects for over 39 years until he passed away in 1998. She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) until her health began to fail. Other interests included reading, genealogy, cross stitch, and various crafts. She will be greatly missed.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the Ron Halsey Memorial Scholarship at Mesa State College Foundation, P.O. Box 3692, Grand Junction, 81502, or Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado, 3090B North 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81506. A memorial service will be held at Martin Mortuary on Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

*Published in the Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, CO., Sunday, 15 July, 2010, page 5B. Mary was a past member of Mesa County Genealogical Society*

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### Eleanor Leggiero

March 6, 1922 – July 9, 2010

Eleanor Leggiero was born on March 5, 1922 in Fruita, Colorado to John Vaughn and Nillah Elliott. She spent her childhood in Fruita, attending grad school in a one room school and graduated from Fruita High School. She married Charles L. Leggiero in October, 1945 in Fruita, he survives.

Eleanor was a service representative for Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph (now known as Quest). She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters of America, St. Joseph's Catholic Women, and the Genealogy Society of Mesa County. Eleanor was the daughter and granddaughter of homesteaders and ranchers of Grand Valley. She grew up on a homestead that was established before Colorado became a state. Eleanor was a loving wife and mother and will sorely be missed.

She is survived by her husband, Charles L. Leggiero; son, Chuck (Sue) Leggiero of Colorado Springs; brother, Burton Vaughn of Rotterdam Junction, NY; sister, Anna Katherine Hoback of Grand Junction; one grandchild and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, Alvin Vaughn.

A private interment is planned. Services will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado.

*Published in the Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., 11 July, 2010, page 3C. Eleanor was a current member of Mesa County Genealogical Society*

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### Dorothy Wanda Dodson

February 9, 1924 – July 12, 2010

Wanda was born and raised in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois, the youngest daughter of Chauncey and Pearl Glose. Her only sibling, sister Cerese was six years older, sharing the same birth date! Her mother, Pearl was a talented musician (piano and organ) and homemaker. Her father, Chauncey was a rural mail carrier and though he drove a 40 mile mail route daily, he love to load the family up for trips all over the country and even into Mexico. Wanda inherited his enthusiasm for travel and sense of adventure.

In high school Wanda was an accomplished student and band member, playing the saxophone and alter in her life enjoyed the piano.

Wanda met the love of her life, Ivan Frank Dodson on a blind date and married February 1944. In the early years of their marriage, Ivan served in the military as a Navy pilot and later became employed in the oil production industry. A natural and astute geologist, he was bankrolled by colleagues to head west for the uranium boom in 1955. Wanda loved Grand Junction and the Western Slope and was always so grateful for the decision.

Eventually they made their home on the Redlands with their three children, Stanley Dodson (Virginia, Madison WI), April Dunn (Frank, Grand Junction, CO) and Sarah Martin (Moab, UT). Wanda and Ivan were avid outdoor enthusiasts, often hunting and fishing in this beautiful region. Ivan was employed as a welder/pipefitter and Wanda worked for Bell Telephone for many years. They loved their children, granddaughters, great grandchildren, pets, their gardens and small orchard. They loved to travel and spend many winters in Ajijic Mexico.

Wanda was an amazing craftsperson, seamstress, and earned the Master Award with her embroidery skills. She had an inquisitive mind and earned an Associates Degree at Mesa College, studying a wide range of interests such as archeology, geology, and language (Spanish and German). She was active in Daughters of the American Revolution, the Embroiderer's Guild, the Museum of Western Colorado, and a volunteer for the Mesa County Public Library and the Botanical Gardens. Wanda was passionate about genealogy research.

Wanda was so proud of her four wonderful granddaughters (Heather Greisz, Rayne Sommers, Megan Martin, Sarah Wilson) and her five great grandchildren (Ivan and Rosalind Greisz, Kate and Henry Wilson, and Ella Sommers).

Wanda passed away on July 12, 2010 at the Aspen Ridge Care Center. She was preceded in death by her sister, Cerese; husband, Ivan and son, Stanley. We have such gratitude for the wonderful staff at Aspen Ridge for their dedication, kindness and care of our mom. They became family.

Services will be held on Wednesday July 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the American Lutheran Church, 631 26 ½ Road, Grand Junction, CO. Arrangements by Callahan-Edfast-Mortuary. Memorial contributions in Wanda's honor may be made to Museum of Western Colorado or the Mesa County Public Library.

*Published in the Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, CO., 18 July 2010, page 3C. Dorothy was a past member of Mesa County Genealogical Society*

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## The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919 in the Grand Junction Area and Western Colorado

By Kathie Vlahos

We have read or heard how it started, the great influenza pandemic of 1918-1919, we have read or heard of the tremendous death toll it took in the United States and worldwide. But, do we know how it affected our own area of Grand Junction and that of our Western Slope neighbors? How did it affect our ancestor's lives? How did it reshape their lives on a personal level? What about the people, who actually had the influenza and lived through it, did it affect their health from that point on? Did they die later, from the damage that the influenza had done to their bodies?

These are all questions as a genealogist that you might think about as you do your research in the time span of 1918 and early 1919. It may have been the cause of your ancestor's death. I do not think there was a family in the United States that was not affected by the influenza in some way, be it by the death of parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles. It was so very large spread, there was no escaping it. It had no regard for social status, age, sex or race, it involved everyone. Then, after 1919 people did not speak of it, it was kept quiet, as if not spoken about, it would be forgotten. But, the tombstones in the cemeteries across the United States and the Western Slope tell the story and will not let it be forgotten.

I think it would be a true loss to let our ancestors be lost in the mass of statistics on the influenza. We as genealogists can learn so much about our ancestors and their lives during this time by looking into their history and learning how they survived during such trying times. If you go forward or backward in a time span from September of 1918 into early 1919, you may find this event reshaped your ancestor's life. Imagine the fears they must have had. How did they handle it? Who in the family was sick or died? How were they buried? These are just a few samples of questions to ask yourself and think about as you do your research.

It seems a little morbid to talk about research during a time like the 1918 influenza pandemic, but, it has always been a time that pegged my interest. It shaped what our ancestor's lives would be from that time forward. I know as I first started doing research in this 1918 - 1919 time span, it really did not dawn on me what my relatives may have died of until I ran across a death certificate for a great-uncle's son who was stillborn on 18 December 1918 at 2 a.m. It stated that the cause of the stillbirth was due to "Influenza." That got my interest up. Then as I went further into the film, I found his mother's death certificate on the same day, 18 December 1919 at 2 a.m., the cause being "Influenza followed by Pneumonia". The duration had been from 10 December thru the 18th. When I found the obituary it stated, "It was believed that she had started to recover from the influenza, only to grow worse and die within 12 hours." The reason I go into this detail is to show what to look for and how her death ultimately reshaped her husband's life and that of her 4 year old daughter. Her husband remarried in 1921 and the daughter went to live with her maternal grandparents for the remainder of her adolescents.

Our Western Slope neighbors were also hit hard by the influenza pandemic. October 28, 1918, in the Daily Sentinel there is an article on Silverton's flu deaths, "*Silverton Has 500 Cases and 56 Flu Deaths.*" Ken Reyher described it well in his book, "*Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death*", pages 32 and 33:

*Day to Day diseases; however, paled in comparison to the world wide influenza pandemic that swept the world in 1918-1919. Millions perished before the so-called "Spanish Flu" ran its course. The United States counted nearly three quarters of a million dead. At the height of the epidemic, many believed the end of the world was at hand. In western Colorado one of the first communities to feel the affects was Ouray. In the late autumn of 1918, despite efforts to quarantine the sick, the disease spread rapidly. Victims first complained of sore throats, chills, and high fevers. Their lungs began to fill with fluids. As oxygen within the body was depleted, the skin began to turn blue-black, usually beginning with the feet then moving towards the head. At this point death could come in a matter of hours. People living in the higher altitudes of the West suffered a much greater death rate than did those living at lower altitudes. Spanish flu struck young adults the hardest, whereas earlier influenza outbreaks usually targeted the very young and elderly. Silverton, Colorado, situated at more than nine thousand feet above sea level, lost, by some accounts, nearly half its population. Death in Silverton so overwhelmed the living, many of whom were ill themselves, that the dead were wrapped in blankets and quilts, then stacked inside cold outbuildings to freeze and await burial in the spring. A mass grave was used for many of these victims, marked today by a single monument in the southwest corner of the Silverton cemetery.*

The influenza had no regard for race either. Native Americans were always hit hardest by European diseases and were almost always devastated because they carried no natural immunity. The tribes on the Western Slope during the influenza pandemic were no exception. Headlines in the December 9, 1918 Grand Junction Daily Sentinel read, "*Influenza is Slaying Many Navajo Indians, More Than 100 Bodies Buried at Kayenta Trading Post; Riders Make Gruesome Find Near Bluff.*" January 7, 1919 in the Daily Sentinel, "*Navajos Suffer Heavily During Pandemic, Indian Trader Brings Report to Moab That at Least Three Thousand Have Died.*" January 10, 1919 in the Daily Sentinel, "*Influenza Takes Toll of Indians.*" In this article a letter from Wallace Stark of Ouray, states, "20 members out of 62 of the Utes of the Uncompahgre Band were lost due to the epidemic. This disease at one time threatened to annihilate the tribe, but the epidemic has now been gotten under control."

Here are some dates and areas to think about when researching in this time span:

The influenza was believed to have first showed up in the United States as early as January 1918 on an Army Base in Kansas. It was described as "La Grippe" or "Pneumonia" and then disappeared around mid-March 1918, only to reappear in September 1918 and continue through the early months of 1919. In the Daily Sentinel, September 20, 1918 issue, an article stated; "*Influenza is spreading Fast Over the East*", "*85,000 Cases in Massachusetts Alone; The Death List Mounts Rapidly.*" The worst months of the influenza in the United States were from September 1918 thru December 1918. In Colorado, the first report of influenza was September 27, 1918 in the Daily Sentinel; this was the death of a Chicago woman in Denver. The peak of the influenza in Grand Junction was Mid-October 1918, lasting for roughly six weeks. As the influenza abated, the last few cases were listed as "pneumonia" in the last half of January 1919.

Dave Fishell's book, "*St. Mary's Hospital, A Spirit of Charity, Celebrating a Century of Caring, 1896 – 1996*", is an excellent book to read about the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. It gives a very good history and picture of what was happening in Grand Junction and neighboring areas at the time of the outbreak and also about the only hospital at the time, St. Mary's and the Sisters Of Charity, that with their dedication and hard work handled the overwhelming influx of patients during the worst of the influenza pandemic in Grand Junction. You can find this book at the Mesa County Library in Grand Junction, Colorado, located in the Colorado Room or in the Lloyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Other information that is useful:

- ❖ Death Certificates - Check for cause of death. Common causes of death used for the influenza were; Spanish Flu, La Grippe, Pneumonia and Influenza. Keep in mind that because a lot of people were on rural ranches and farms, those who died may have just been buried quickly in the family cemetery or on the ranch/farm without reporting the deaths. The living may have also been afraid to come into town to report deaths for fear of catching the flu. It also was a very hectic time, people may not have had time or the energy to report the deaths, they may have been sick themselves.
- ❖ Obituaries - There are many clues here; date of death, when they became ill and how they died, surviving relatives and some obituaries even go into detail of the symptoms before death.
- ❖ Local Newspaper articles - Headlines in the time span can shed tremendous light on what our relatives were living through and what their daily lives may have been like. The Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel was not as wide spread until the 1920's; it was all very local news, something to keep in mind while reading. Many more deaths may have occurred that were not reported to the newspaper and this may be why obituaries may not be found on your ancestor.
- ❖ Library - Check the local Library for historical information. Check local history books, newspapers, cemetery books, etc.
- ❖ County or City Clerk's office - Check the County or City Clerk to see if there had been a list made of the death toll in the area. In the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, January 14, 1919, the Heath Commissioner, Holmburg, reported 125 deaths in the last quarter of 1918, due to the influenza. Unofficially, who knows how many people died of the influenza and were not reported?
- ❖ Cemeteries - Read the headstones in the time period, also check with the sexton's office for any additional information on your ancestor that may be in their files. Orchard Mesa Cemetery in Grand Junction, had one area that was unused at the time, on a slope, there are quite a few 1918 burials in this area. There was no designated area for the burials of the flu victims.
- ❖ Funeral Homes - Check the funeral home record of your ancestors, these can be very informative. Grand Junction had only two funeral homes in 1918.
- ❖ Keep in mind of the other great epidemics that have occurred in the United States of which your ancestors may have experienced.
  - Smallpox - 1633 through 1799 mainly along the eastern coastal area of the U.S.
  - Yellow Fever - 1699 through 1900 primarily along the eastern coast areas of U. S. and along the Mississippi River in the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi.
  - Cholera - 1832 - 34, 1849 - 51, 1866, 1873 and was in a large area east of the Mississippi River, west into eastern Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, eastern Oklahoma, Minnesota and along the California migration trail.

***Following on page 8, are samplings of headlines from The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel which tell the story of the influenza outbreak, September 1918 thru January 1919:***

**Every Precaution Should Be Taken to Guard Health Conditions at This Time.**

**SWEEPING THE COUNTRY**

Influenza, Followed by Pneumonia, Is Claiming Hundreds of Victims Over the United States; Use Care When You Sneeze.

Friday, October 1, 1918, The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado

**WEDNESDAY**

**DEAD TO STREETS 200 WRECKS**

**THE HOSPITALS ARE FULL**

**THAT THEY RESPOND WITH OVER 300 MILES**

Wednesday, October 23, 1918, The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., page 2

**MUCH DISEASE IS REPORTED OVER THE CITY**

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., October 23, 1918, Page 3

**NO SCHOOLS WILL OPEN ON MONDAY**

Every Precaution Should Be Taken to Prevent Further Spread of Influenza.

**DO SHOPPING BY PHONE**

Women of the City Are Requested Not to Crowd Into Stores; May Ask Stores to Close Saturday Night.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., October 23, 1918, Page 1

**NO SCHOOLS WILL OPEN ON MONDAY**

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., November 2, 1918, Page 5

**HELP NEEDED AT HOSPITAL VERY BADLY**

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., November 11, 1918, Page 1

**FOOLISH FEAR OF FLU SHUTS OUT SYMPATHY**

Little Danger If a Few Common-Sense Precautions Are Observed Says Head of the Weld County Red Cross.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., November 18, 1918, Page 2

**TO CARE FOR THOSE SICK OVER CITY**

Red Cross and Churches Co-operating to Render All Possible Relief During Epidemic.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., November 19, 1918, Page 1

**NEEDED HELP EXTENDED TO SICK PEOPLE**

Relief Work Organized But Yesterday Is Already City-Wide in Its Scope.

**NEED WORKERS BADLY**

Both Men and Women Wanted for Simple Work About Homes Where All Are Sick; Many Visitors Are Busy.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., November 20, 1918, Page 1



# 50 MILLIONS COST OF "FLU" TO INSURANCE

Great Companies Hit Hard by the  
Epidemic; Small Industrial  
Policies Suffer Most.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co.,  
January 2, 1919, Page 5

# REQUESTS FOR INFLUENZA AID HERE REFUSED

The County Commissioners Vote  
Down Requests for Funds Ex-  
pended During Recent Epi-  
demic.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co., January 10,  
1919, Page 1

# TWO THOUSAND CASES OF FLU PAST QUARTER

Health Commissioner Holmburg  
Will Submit Quarterly Report  
Today; 125 Deaths and 47  
Births.

The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Co.,  
January 14, 1919, Page 6

*From the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, 16 January 1919, page 2, Author unknown*

## Sends A Poetic Description Of The Influenza

In a letter received recently from a friend in a neighboring city, a Grand Junction man obtained combined New Year's greeting and poetic description of the influenza. It is very evident that this day's experience was very similar to that of several hundred in this city and vicinity who also have suffered the tortures of the flu.

Oh, pray you never have the flu.  
A New Year's wish I want to send.  
I hope that you will get the trend;  
So slowly read and you will see  
Just why I send THIS wish to thee;  
On Christmas day I had the flu  
It surely makes a fellow blue  
Two mad-dogs played at hide-and-peek

Along my spin and in each cheek  
While in my head a big saw-mill  
Just sawed and sawed - was never still.

And now and then it gave a knock,  
As though it meant to break the lock  
And spill the contents of my head  
All over the pillow sheet and bed.  
A mule kicked at each side of my neck  
As though "twere bent my life to wreck.

And, with a cyclone in each limb,  
My chance for ease was rather slim.  
At first I feared that I should die;  
And then I laughed and wondered why.

I cared, for needles pierced my toes;  
A paint brush tickled up my nose,  
And made me choke and cough and sneeze.  
While chills crept up my back to freeze.

And wouldn't one be better dead  
Than living with an empty head?  
Each eye felt like a fiery ball  
That roamed around from wall to wall.

And mustard, onion, turpentine  
I'll smell them till I'm ninety-nine.  
At last I started in to sweat,  
And sweat till sheets were supping wet;

And I really thought that I should drown  
Before the four hours rolled around.  
Then, when I'd seat out most the pain.

And rather felt myself again,  
I thought that I would take a walk,  
But, found my bones had turned to chalk.

My blood had turned to water, too;  
My face took on an ashen hue;  
If I stood up, my knees they'll knock;  
My voice would scare me, should I talk.

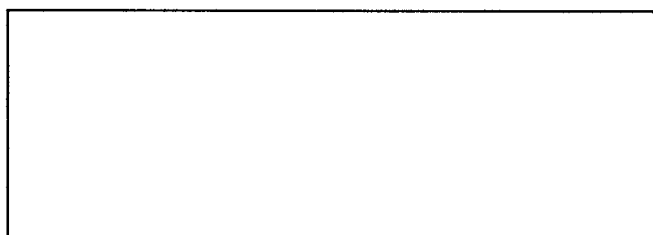
I'm sure "twill be four weeks or five  
Before I feel just half alive.  
And so I sent THIS wish to you;  
Oh, may you never have the flu.

*My many thanks to Dave Fishell for the time he spent in an interview, various newspaper clippings, and information about St. Mary's Hospital from his book, oral information about Grand Junction and area in the 1918-1919 time span that he supplied to me for this article, included here with permission from Dave Fishell, July 13, 2010.*

*Paragraph from pages 32 and 33 in Ken Reyher's book, "Through The Valley of The Shadow of Death", reprinted with permission from Ken Reyher, July 8, 2010.*

## Mesa County Genealogical Society

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### **New Law Changes Illinois Adoption Records Rules**

Residents of Illinois who were adopted can now have access to documents about their family history. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill Friday allowing people who were adopted to access their birth certificates. Previously, birth certificates were sealed to keep the parents anonymous. State Representative Sarah Feigenholtz, who was adopted, sponsored the bill.

Birth parents who don't want to be found will have one and a half years to get their names blacked out on their children's birth certificates. But backers expect four out of five birth parents will opt to let their children find them.

Effective immediately, children and parents involved in adoptions that took place before 1946 can get birth certificates. For later cases, Feigenholtz and other state officials will spend the next one and a half years notifying birth parents and adoptive children that they need to contact the state and declare whether or not they wish to be found. Notices will go out on Illinois' residents' vehicle renewal stickers and other state documents. After Nov. 15, 2011, people involved in adoption can request birth certificates, and if the other parties involved have filed no objections, the birth certificate will be turned over.

If a birth parent says no, and adoptive child can ask again in five years and the state will check to see whether the parent has changed her or his mind.

*Posted by Dick Eastman on June 8, 2010*

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