

**"Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery, and Today is a gift: That is why they call it the Present."
Eleanor Roosevelt**

Volume 31, Issue 2

June 2011

Genealogists are Time Un-revelers'

A Genealogy Intro By Dick Eastman

Do you have a curiosity about you family tree? Many people do. Some may have their interest piqued because of an heirloom, an old picture, or perhaps an unresolved family mystery. The reasons people get hooked on genealogy are many and varied, but each person's search is unique. After all, the search for your ancestors really is a search for yourself.

If you think that family history research requires hours of rummaging through libraries, trekking through cemeteries, and writing letters to government bureaus, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Finding your family tree is simpler than what many people imagine. To be sure, you may encounter some intriguing obstacles. However, most of them can be overcome.

As with so many hobbies today, using a computer can simplify some of the tasks of searching and recording. However, a computer is not necessary. Americans have been recording their ancestry for two centuries or more with out digital tools, and you can do the same. All you need is a starting point and a direction, and maybe a few tips.

In the beginning ... there's you!

Starting a family tree search is very simple: begin with what you know about yourself, and then work backwards, one generation at a time. Linking back from yourself through the generations helps to ensure that the people you research actually belong in your family tree and don't simply have the same name as one of your ancestors. The unfortunate souls who try to skip a generation may well find themselves perched in the wrong family tree.

Write down the information that you already know. A basic pedigree chart will help. You can find these at genealogy societies and at most libraries, as well as on a number of web sites. You can find such charts at

http://www.ancestry.com/trees_charts_ancechart.aspx and at

http://www.io.com/~jhaller/forms_forms.html.

Place yourself in the first position on the chart, and fill in the vital information: your name, the date and place of your birth, as well as the date and place of any marriages you have had. Next, move back one generation, and fill in the same

information for both of your parents: name, date and place of birth, and place of marriage, and date and place of death, if deceased.

Continue working back even further, to grandparents and great-grandparents, if possible. Very few beginning genealogists can fill in the basic facts on even three generations, let alone four. Simply fill in what you already know, and leave the remaining facts as blank spaces. You can fill them in later as you uncover clues.

Once you exhaust your own memory, a family fact finding expedition is a great way to gather more information. Pick the brains of your family members, especially older family members. Take along a notebook, and write down the events they remember. Ask around for photos, letters, and newspaper clippings, and so on. The memorabilia you find will surprise you and delight you.

So far, you've relied on people's recollections to add to your history. We all know, however, that memories are not always exact. Next, you will need to confirm the date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, name of spouse, date and place of death, names of parents and children, for as many individuals as possible. You will be surprised how easy it is to find birth certificates and marriage records, especially in the United States. Our country has a long tradition of recording and preserving these vital records.

Now you are ready to set an achievable target from the myriad facts you have accumulated. Pick an ancestor, perhaps one with a few blanks on the chart. Next, choose a question you would like to answer, such as the town where he or she was born. Then decide where you will start hunting.

A birth certificate is an obvious objective. However, you may also need to look in a wide range of places to find out more about that person's life. When the location of birth is not easily found, you can look for other records that will help identify the person's origins. Some of the places you can look are census records, military records and pensions, land records, schooling, occupation, electoral rolls, sporting clubs, newspaper reports – on fact, the list of places where you may find clues is almost endless.

Continued on page 10

MESA DWELLERS

New Newsletter – Casefile Clues for Beginners

The following announcement was written by Michael John Neill:

We are announcing a new how-to genealogy newsletter for the beginning genealogist starting June of 2011.

Reader and survey feedback indicated an interest aimed toward the genealogist who needed some guidance in starting their search for their ancestors and who needed more than just a summary of what records contain. *Casefile Clues for Beginners* will help orient genealogists to the basic records genealogists use and how to make the best use of their research time and money.

Tentatively titled *Casefile Clues for Beginners*, this new newsletter will be bi-weekly and feature beginning level material written by a variety of genealogist, not just me. We'll have a question and answer section, interpret the handwriting section, one or two articles every issue, and more. This new periodical will be written in a down-to-earth, practical format. *Casefile Clues for Beginners* will concentrate on those who are starting or have just started their search for their ancestors.

There is more information about *Casefile Clues for Beginners* on our blog: <http://goo.gl/FnXUJ>

Questions can be sent to me at mjnrootdig@gmail.com.

We are very excited to start this new endeavor geared towards those who have just started the search for their ancestors.

Michael John Neill

Posted by Dick Eastman on 15 May, 2011
This article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2011 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>

Correction in the March 2011, Volume 31, Issue 1 MCGS Newsletter, Jan Wilson's biography; Beulah Mae Boyle's maiden name was Thead, not Thread.

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	Iris Krogh
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Jill Berthod

Board Members

Jan Wilson	3 year Term
Karen Grew-Ellison	2011-2012-2013
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
Membership	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] or telephone: [REDACTED]

June 2011 – August 2011 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 9 June 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – PIECES IN FRUITA TIME: *The Ladies and Their Families Bound Together by 1930's Friendship Quilts of the Fruita, Colorado Highpoint Farm Community "Happy Hour Club."* By: Jan Botkin Therkildsen.
- 22 June 2011 Wednesday Noon at Museum: – FamilySearch.com class - (RootsMagic User Group 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
- 14 July 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Annual Research Brickwalls Share.
- 27 July 2011 Wednesday Noon at Museum: FamilySearch.com class - (RootsMagic User Group 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
- 11 August 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Annual Potluck Picnic - (Details to be announced)
- 24 August 2011 Wednesday Noon at Museum: FamilySearch.com class - (RootsMagic User Group 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
-

President's Message

Recently I have been attending a number of Webinars (live presentations on the internet) about how to use my genealogy database RootsMagic. So far RootsMagic has had 20 of these Webinars. Note that they are all recorded and put on the RootsMagic website www.rootsmagic.com for downloading or viewing at any time and all for free. You might wonder why I would mention this if you are using a different genealogy program from RootsMagic. A few of these Webinars have been about using other software such as Personal Historian and Family Atlas both of which can be used with any genealogy database. On April 28th, Lisa Louise Cooke presented a Webinar based on her book *Google Search Tips and Tricks*. She is author and lecturer of how to use Google in your genealogy. On May 24th she also presented a Webinar on Google Earth for Genealogy. You might want to check it out at www.rootsmagic.com/webinars

I recently found a couple of blogs that are very interesting. Blood and Frogs <http://www.bloodandfrogs.com> by Philip Trauring has Jewish genealogy topics, but also has some very well researched articles on naturalization and name changes at Ellis Island.

Another blog I have enjoyed receiving is the blog from The Ancestry Insider <http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/>. This blog discusses what is happening at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com. One of the recent discussions there is about using sources and citations.

Speaking of FamilySearch.com, Garry Brewer recently sent me an update on what is happening at FamilySearch.com and mentioned the following article - Civil War Buffs and Volunteers Enlist in Campaign to Publish Millions of Historic Records Online <https://www.familysearch.org/node/1187>. I suggest that you periodically check out all the news at www.familysearch.org, when you go there, click on "Blog", then "News and Press Articles."

One of the ways we can always work on writing our family history is to do it in small bits. Editor Kathie Vlahos would love to have you contribute to the Mesa Dwellers newsletter. Consider writing up a story about your parents, grandparents or great grandparents and publish it in the Mesa Dwellers newsletter. This is a good way to work on that book about your ancestor's one person at a time.

Also check out the Pieces in Fruita Time article by Jan Botkin Therkildsen on page 4. She will be presenting our program at the June 9th evening meeting at Cross Orchards. Hope you are able to attend.

Dennis

PIECES IN FRUITA TIME

The Ladies and their Families Bound Together by 1930's Friendship Quilts of the Fruita, Colorado Highpoint Farm Community Happy Hour Club. By: Jan Botkin Therkildsen, Arvada, Colorado

This genealogy project is about ladies – the ladies of the Highpoint farm community – northeast of Fruita – who established the Happy Hour Club in 1922 as an auxiliary to the Highpoint Rural Life Club, which was established in 1915. Don Stark, 79, of Kent, Washington, remembers being 4-5 years old and accompanying his Grandmother Mary Botkin and his mother Fern Botkin Stark when they went to Happy Hour Club gatherings, where the ladies met for good visits, bringing along their sewing, crocheting, and other handiwork. “I learned to knit and crochet” recalls Don, “but my crowning glory was that I was the needle threader. First I had been threading needles for Grandma Botkin for quite a while, as she was going blind with cataracts. I on the other hand, had great eyes and steady hands just made for the job.”

During the 1930's, the Happy Hour Club decided to create friendship quilts – embroidering their signature onto blocks for each other's quilts. I became aware of these quilts in January 2007, when Dorothy Miller Burlison contacted me after finding me through my parents, who had been her neighbors growing up in the Fruita Highpoint farm community. Dorothy told me that her mother Ethel Miller's Happy Hour Club friendship quilt was now in the possession of her niece Debra. She had learned of another Happy Hour Club friendship quilt that still existed – in good condition – originally belonging to Elsie Perkins. Elsie's foster daughter Ruth McLendon, now age 89 and living in Pueblo, Colorado, was interested in passing the quilt along to someone who would appreciate it. Since my Great Grandmother Mary Botkin, Grandmother Oralee Botkin, and three of my great aunts – Zula McDaniel, Faye Parish, and Fern Stark – had signed it, Dorothy offered the quilt to me. Of course, I enthusiastically accepted!

I became interested in learning more about the ladies who signed the quilts. Where did they come from before life brought them to the Fruita area? Who were their families and where are they now? Could I find stories about life in the Fruita Highpoint farm community? What could I learn about these ladies' lives in the Fruita area during the Depression time and since then?

As I began to make contacts with living quilt signers or descendants of quilt signers, I discovered more Happy Hour Club quilts still in existence, with the total found to date being six. While each quilt is a story in itself, the real stories are about the ladies.

As of April 2011, two Happy Hour Club quilt signers are still living: Dorothy Miller Burlison, 87, of Moscow, Idaho, and Margaret Parish Coston, 93, of Grand Junction. They were daughters of Happy Hour Club ladies Ethel Miller and Faye Parish. Four other quilt signers were living when I began this project, and I heard great stories from three – Betty Parish Buniger who died in 2008, Lona Groves Alstatt who died in 2009, and Mildred Kingsley Ilk who also died in 2009. I was unsuccessful in contacting Ruth Ellis Henninger before she died in 2008.

In 2007, my Dad Mick Botkin took me on a tour of the Fruita Highpoint farm community area, pointing out where each family lived – though many homes are no longer there – and I drafted a map. Then, in 2010, Dorothy Miller Burlison and I toured the area with Dorothy's childhood Highpoint friend Joyce Byers Thorpe, who died later in 2010. Joyce, who had continuously lived in the Fruita Highpoint area, had made substantial handwritten notes on my drafted map – and her tour was even more informative.

Mildred Kingsley Ilk was daughter of Samuel and Nell Kingsley and married a Fruita Highpoint neighbor, Everett Ilk. She recalled learning much from the older Happy Hour Club ladies. “Everett's mother (Ada High Ilk) taught me to crochet and several embroidery stitches. Myrtle Ellis taught me to correctly do the running stitch, and told me what to put on a scabby spot on my wrist – the milk of the milkweed plant!”

Lona Groves Alstatt was the daughter of Fred and Orsa Groves. She said "We were all poor and we didn't know the difference!" Mildred Kingsley Ilk added, "But we never went hungry! Times were very hard but everyone was in the same boat. A run in a silk stocking was a disaster and a flour sack was worth its weight in egg money. We never wasted them. I made my sisters' and my underwear out of them."

Mildred said that the Mesa Flour Mills in the Valley used paint to stamp their seal on sacks and it was hard to get out. She recalls Ethel Shook Nugent – who was another Happy Hour Club quilt signer – saying "My husband tells me he wouldn't know me if I didn't have a Mesa flour stamp on my hip." Mildred said the ladies petitioned the Mesa Flour Mill to use less hardy paint on the flour sacks so it would wash out and the mill did so. That allowed the ladies to bleach out the flour sacks and make slips and underwear without the "Mesa Flour Mill" stamp.

It is easy to imagine that Fruita Highpoint Happy Hour Club gatherings helped these ladies keep their spirits up during the harsh times of the Depression era. These ladies helped with the farming and provided meals for family and farm crews. They sewed to provide clothing for their family, kept gardens, and canned food to keep their families fed through the winter. They built strong bonds among other Fruita Highpoint and Fruita families, most of them making sure that their families made it to church each Sunday – even by horse and buggy. There are an abundance of stories of these ladies helping one another when illness struck, caring for each other's children, and sharing food and work and friendship.

Thankfully, during the 1930's, these ladies also lovingly took the time to sign their names to one another's Friendship quilts – leaving behind wonderful treasures that continue to bind all of their families together, more than 70 years later.

In researching the ladies, of course I learned much about their husbands, parents, children, and extended family. In addition to the book I've drafted, which includes some family history information, I have separately compiled and posted a database online (free access) with reference to supporting resources at: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=janquilt>. I update it often, as more information comes my way. As possible, I have located obituaries, photos, and other primary family documents. However, many of my resources are either secondary or are referencing someone else's database. Therefore, I urge you to seek out copies of primary resources to ensure that you're working with the most accurate data and information, and to send me corrections at therkild@aol.com or contact me to provide additional photos and information at 303-478-4181.

Ladies who signed at least one of the six located Fruita Highpoint Happy Hour Club Friendship Quilts:

Ruby J. Adams (1880-1959)	Sylvia Thomas DeVore (1893-1989)
Prudence Barrett Burlison (1915-1972)	Ethel Lutz Dickerson (1912-1998)
Helen Haller Baughman McPheters (1900-1990)	Darley Isaacs Drake (1881-1972)
Ethel Wilson Belt (1884-1970)	Maude Unknown Dwyer (1889-1977)
Anna Berg (1889-1971)	Daisy Berg Elliott (1898-1983)
Carrie Harris Berg (1889-1980)	Myrtle Gray Ellis (1895-1987)
Mary Parish Berg (1900-1982)	Olive Keeney Ellis (1864-1942)
Mary "Mother" Johnson Berg (1853-1936)	Ruth Ellis Henninger (1915-2008)
Mary Atkinson Botkin (1867-1946)	Blanche Dalton Goddard (1889-1981)
Oralee McDaniel Botkin (1898-1940)	Nellie Mills Gosnell (1876-1940)
Irene Frazer Boughton (1901-2001)	Beulah Unknown Gram Cyr (1903-1987)
Nancy Wade Burns (1851-1941)	Louise Joines Gram (1900-1981)
Anna Unknown Carpenter (1890-1989)	Lona Groves Alstatt (1917-2009)
Grace Sheriff Clark (1870-1949)	Orsa Glasco Groves (1883-1982)

Nettie Kellum Haller (1869-1949)
 Mary Miller Huskey (1887-1948)
 Ada High Ilk (1885-1968)
 Margaret Ilk Kovach (1908- ??)
 Nell Goudie Kingsley (1885-1978)
 Emma Kingsley (1914-??)
 Mildred Kingsley Ilk (1915-2009)
 Viola Goddard Klapwyk (1902-1989)
 Thelma Huskey McCutchen (1918-??)
 Zula Amick McDaniel (1879-1970)
 Dorothy Miller Burlison (1924 – still living)
 Ethel Beadle Miller (1892-1981)
 Onia Mize (1882-1952)
 Nellie Mocher/Mosher (??-??)
 Goldie Adams Moore (1886-1983)
 Elizabeth Calderhead Morton (1897-1986)
 Thelma Cretcher Morton (1904-??)
 Emma Berg Nagel (1892-1985)
 Maurine Barnes Nickolai Herman (1904-1996)
 Gladys Boughton Nielsen (1906-1987)
 Addie Foley Nolen (1877-1955)

Ethel Shook Nugent (1886-1969)
 Maggie Unknown Olson (1884-1974)
 Edith Jarman Ozenbaugh (1870-1950)
 Betty Parish Buniger (1919-2008)
 Faye Botkin Parish (1893-1979)
 Jennie Conover Parish (1865-1940)
 Margaret Parish Coston (1917 – still living)
 Elsie Morton Perkins (1891-1937)
 Johnnie Unknown Perkins (?? - ??)
 Elizabeth “Lizzie” High Peterson (1889-1963)
 Grace Miller Porter (1886-1938)
 Ruth Thomas Reed (1899-1984)
 Mattie Hogsett Roberts (1867-1957)
 Velma “Jo” Wallace Schilthuis (1908-1993)
 Fern Botkin Stark (1893-1968)
 Ida Burns Wallace (1870-1955)
 Gerda Anderson Watson (1877-1967)
 Mildred Yount Watson (1903-1986)
 Elsie Mae Boss Watt (1898-1990)
 Fannie Remine Wiggington (1860-1935)
 Alice Leslie Wilson (1892-??)
 Olive Newbury Yount (1881-1960)

Following are some interesting photographs and a newspaper article of the history of the Happy Hour Club.



Dorothy Miller Burlison, with Elsie Perkins “Happy Hour Club” Quilt, 2010

Highpoint Rural Life club formed in 1915

On Feb. 3, 1915, a group of people in the Highpoint district gathered to form a club. The first officers were T. A. Topham, president; Victor Black, vice president and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Nugent.

Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Topham, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nugent, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hinkle, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Barr, Mrs. Shook, Mrs. Edna Groves, Harvey Groves, Mr. Williams, Mr. Robinson and Victor Black.

The purposes of the club were to reopen the Highpoint school, to improve farm - to - market roads, to improve homemaking, to improve community entertainment, to improve methods of farming, to improve methods of marketing.

Projects were to: Improve, plant and landscape the park in Elmwood cemetery; have a memory garden for departed members in the cemetery; work in Thrift Shop and hospital; instrumental in getting fire escape installed in Fruita grade school; sponsor 4-H clubs; purchase war bond; provide wheel chair and bed-table for invalids; keep up road improvement program; work with county agents to solve rural problems; participate in fairs or exhibits in connection with county fairs.

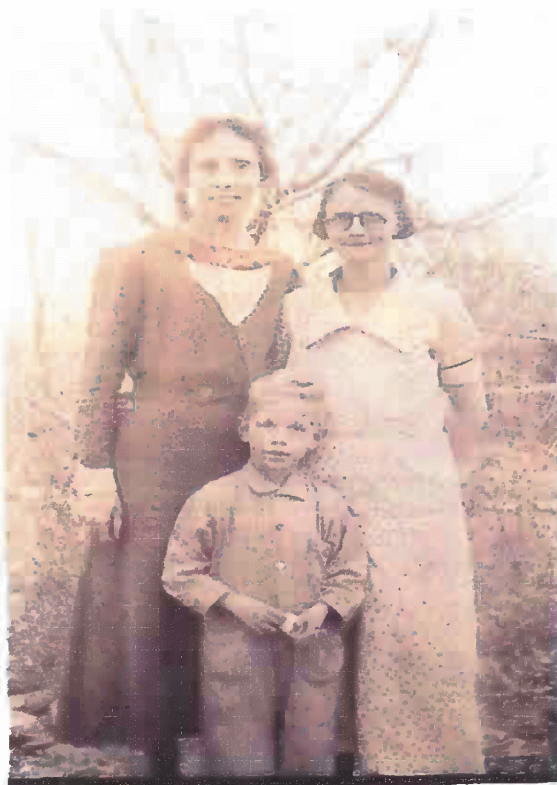
The club's membership grew from 11 members to 40 the first year. Present enrollment is 25. The club meets the third Tuesday of each month and has acted continuously since it was organized 44 years ago.

Present officers are: President, G. C. Stewart; vice president, C. C. Parish; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. William Cox.

HAPPY HOUR CLUB IS AUXILIARY

Happy Hour club is an auxiliary of the Highpoint Rural Life club and was started in January, 1922. It was named by Mrs. Oscar McLendon. The meetings are for women, and social intercourse is enjoyed. Their meeting date is the first Tuesday of the month and there are 15 members. Present officers are: President, Mrs. Herbert Berg; vice president, Mrs. William Watson; secretary - treasurer, Mrs. Henry Carpenter.

The Fruita Times, Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado
75th Anniversary Edition
Thursday, October 15, 1959
Page 38



Ethel Beadle Miller, Oralee McDaniel Botkin & Charles Miller, 1935



High Point School

Built in 1889 on High Point Hill, NE of Fruita, Colorado, west side of 17 1/2 Road, just south of M Road.

Source: Fruita Heritage Room

From the Editor:

A Cemetery Run
By Kathie Vlahos

Recently my husband, Bob and I took a trip to Tacoma, Washington. We were going to visit our son, John and daughter-in-law, Joey. What has become a habit that we now do whenever we take trips is that we check to see if we have anyone that is buried in the area that we need information on and if possible take a photo of their headstone. We call it a Cemetery Run.

For a cemetery run, we put together the personal information on the person/persons we need to find. In this area it was Bob's great grandfather and my great aunt's husband and small infant. We had the cemetery names, so we looked them up for the address, to get a map, (even if you think you know where the cemetery is, get a map anyway, it saves a lot of time and headaches, voice of experience speaking) phone number and the hours of the office for the cemetery. Bob's g-grandfather was in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tumwater, WA and my relatives were in Calvary Cemetery, Tumwater, WA., after a map search, it turned out the cemeteries were right next to each other.

John and Joey thought this cemetery run stuff sounded interesting, so they came along. (John has been in the Tacoma, WA area before, but Joey has not, and it is all new territory for her.) The office was open and the gentleman who was working there was very helpful. He found Bob's g-grandfather easily and looked up in the cemetery records for any additional information he had on his burial. I just happened to mention I was looking for gravesites in Calvary Cemetery and he said that Calvary did not have a office, but he had a map for it and could help with the location of the graves, but not any other information, which also meant he could not tell us if there were grave markers or not. He printed out maps for us, gave us directions and we went looking.



We found Bob's g-grandfather's grave, no problem. We moved onto Calvary Cemetery where my relative's graves were and could not find any headstones. John and Joey were walking the area in the cemetery where the graves were supposed to be....nothing. John noticed that there were some blank areas between grave plates near the area where my aunt's husband's grave should be. There would be one grave plate, then a blank area where there might have been another. He started poking (literally) with his finger into the soil as far down as he could go and felt something hard, he pulled away some turf and about 3 inches down, buried by years of organic matter building up over it, was a grave plate. It wasn't the one I wanted, but it started us all looking where there may be other hidden grave plates and poking with our fingers to see if we could feel anything. Then Bob went to the car and got a long screw driver from his tool box and probed deeper, sure enough, it hit metal. We dug about 6 inches down and there it was, the elusive grave plate of my relative. It was a small metal 9" by 5" marker and it was loose. We pulled it up, washed the mud off with water we keep in the car, laid it in the grass and took a picture.

This being a first ever cemetery run for John and Joey, they were excited and ready to find the other grave of the infant. Unfortunately, we did not find that one, but we did have the location, so we made an x with two sticks and took a picture of it with the headstone adjacent to it for later location purposes.

We all had fun and a feeling of accomplishment with the finding of the lost graves. I think John and Joey will be up for more cemetery adventures in the future.

Moral of this story, you just never know what Mother Nature has done to those grave plates and headstones over the years, so go to the cemetery prepared. I bring gloves, a small hand trowel for "carefully" cleaning any overgrown soil and grass away from headstones or grave plates, (be careful, you do not want to damage the stone or plate by scraping, etc., just loosen the dirt a little so you can then remove it by hand) a hand brush for leaves, etc., water for cleaning dirt and mud off and as we found out now, a long screw driver for searching. You may also want to report to the office any damaged headstones or grave plates you find. For more information on gravestone care and conservation, you can go to ProGenealogists web site, <http://www.progenealogists.com/tombstonecare.htm>.

Share your adventures in looking for your ancestors. Send it to Kathie Vlahos, MCGS Editor or Karen Grew-Ellison, Assistant MCGS Editor.

The Easy way to Add Maps to Your Family History Projects

Would you like to include U.S. maps in your family history projects, but can't find what you want? Would you like to add maps to a book you plan to publish but cannot find anything that isn't copyrighted? Do you need a sample, prepared map that you can print at home, at school, or in the office? A service provided by the U.S. Government will provide maps for you. Best of all, there are no copyrights on the maps. You can use them in commercial books as well as for personal purposes.

The National Atlas is a map-making platform sponsored by the Federal Government that lets you build your own maps. You can create maps that capture and depict patterns, conditions, and trends of American life. You can use the National Atlas templates to create maps that cover all of the United States or just your area of interest.

The National Atlas of the United States of America is a web site created by the United States Department of the Interior. The online atlas provides a map-like view of geospatial and geostatistical data collected for the United States. Unlike the big, bound map collections, the National Atlas includes electronic maps and services that are delivered online.

In the National Atlas Map Maker you can assemble, view, and print your own maps. In most cases, you can choose from hundreds of layers of geographic information to make maps. Each map layers can be displayed individually or mixed with others as you tailor a map to your needs. Once you assemble the layers of choice, you can print the map or save it electronically.

For example, you can make a map showing America's streams and lakes. Then you can add new map layers showing additional geographic information, such as state boundaries, county boundaries, roads, railroads, and towns and cities.

Once you've zoomed in on an area you want to map, you can choose from the display elements available on the right of the program window to display water elements, roads, boundaries and other features. Finally, you can add your own information by first saving the map to your hard drive and then using any appropriate photo editing program to add text and new symbols.

The online National Atlas can be used form many purposes other than genealogy. The site is full of examples for agriculture, biology, climate, environmental, history, and more.

For more information, or to try it yourself, you can visit the National Atlas at <http://www.nationalatlas.gov>

Posted by Dick Eastman on 24 April, 2011, this article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2011 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>

WhatWasThere: See How Cities and Towns Looked In The Past

One web site should interest any genealogist or historian. **WhatWasThere.com** has a simple purpose: provide a platform where anyone can easily upload a photograph with two straightforward tags to provide context: Location and Year. If enough people upload enough photographs in enough places, together we will weave together a photographic history of the world.

What Was There encourages everyone to upload old photographs of any place in the world. Visitors to the website can view these photographs by browsing to different locations on a map. You can see what different sections of your native city or any other place in the world used to look like. With each photograph there are details that you can view to obtain further information. Amongst other things, these details include the year the photo was taken. Sections of the photographs can be magnified to get a better look at those old photos.

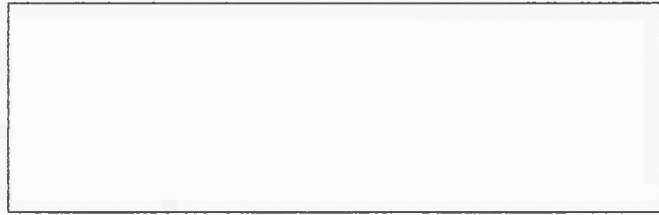
I tried looking for a few smaller towns on WhatWasThere.com but was generally unsuccessful. To be sure, there are man photos taken in small towns but not in every town. However, I was able to look at many cities of the past, some as early as the 1890's. I noticed that many of the photos came from the Library of Congress although I also saw other sources as well.

You can check out WhatWasThere at <http://www.whatwasthere.com>

Posted by Dick Eastman on 28 March 2011, this article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2011 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>

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Generally speaking, it's easier to research through indexes and compiled records that are available on the internet at the beginning of your family tree discovery tour. Even if you don't own a computer, many libraries today provide computers with internet access for just such purposes. One of the greatest resources available is that of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, usually referred to as the Mormons. This church has microfilmed millions of records from all over the world, and indexes to these microfilms are available on their web site, www.familysearch.org. The Mormons gather records from all faiths and all ethnic groups and make these records available to everyone, regardless of religious orientation. Best of all, you can reserve and view the microfilms at a local Mormon Family History Center near where you live. The films ship straight from Salt Lake City to your local Center, where volunteers can help you with the microfilm readers. While there, you will not be given religious materials or lectures (unless you ask). You can find the Family History Center closest to your location if you start at <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/frameSet/frameSet.jsp>

Wherever you turn up information about your ancestors, always check the "facts" that you find. Many times you will obtain a piece of information that later turns out to be inaccurate. Never believe anything until you can verify it! You need to treat all verbal information – as well as most of the genealogy information on the internet – as "clues to what might be true." Then, armed with this newly-found information, seek out an original record of the event that corroborates what you found earlier.

Once your tree starts bearing fruit, you will probably find that a computer can be a tremendous help in keeping track of all your people, events, and dates. Today's computers and software are priced to fit most any budget, and they can save weeks and even months of work. If you decide to use a computer, it's a good idea to choose a genealogy program sooner rather than later – even if you have collected only a few family details. These programs help to organize information about individual ancestors, as well as their relationships to others in the family tree. These programs will make it much easier for you to visualize the connections between people through their capability to automatically generate charts and even point out potential discrepancies.

A list of genealogy programs for Windows computers may be found at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy_2010/06/genealogy-programs-for-windows.html while a similar list for Macintosh systems may be found at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy_2010/06/genealogy-programs-for-macintosh.html

A search for your family tree can be one of the most fascinating and rewarding pursuits of your life. Who knows what you will find? Nobility? Heroes? Or horse thieves? Most of us can find all three in our ancestry. Who is lurking in your family tree?

Posted by Dick Eastman on 6 January, 2011

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