

**If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet,
you'd best teach it to dance.
George Bernard Shaw 1856-1950**

Share your knowledge, it is a way to achieve immortality.

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Ten Commandments of Genealogy By Dick Eastman

In the Course of writing this newsletter, I get to see a lot of genealogy information. Most of what I see is on the web, although some information is in books or in e-mail. Some of what I see is high-quality research. However, much of it is much less than that. Even the shoddiest genealogy work could be so much more if the compiler had simply spent a bit of time thinking about what he or she was doing.

Creating a first-class genealogy work is not difficult. In fact, it is expected. It should be the norm. Please consider the following "rules." If you follow these guidelines, you, too, can produce high-quality genealogy reports that will be useful to others:

1. Never accept someone else's opinion as "fact." Be suspicious. Always check for yourself!
2. Always verify primary sources (see footnote #1); never accept a secondary source (see footnote #2) as factual until you have personally verified the information.
3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person's name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information. If you are not certain how to do this, get yourself a copy of "Evidence Explained" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This excellent book shows both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence.
4. If you use the works of other, always give credit. Never claim someone else's research as your own.
5. Assumptions and "educated guesses" are acceptable in genealogy as long as they are clearly labeled as such. Never offer your theories as facts.
6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors. So will you. Accept this fact. When someone points out a possible error in your work, always thank that person for his or her assistance and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.

7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission. Do Not reveal their names or any dates or locations.

8. Keep "family secrets." Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the Internet or written in books. The family historian records "family secrets" as facts but does not publish them publicly.

9. Protect original documents. Handle all documents with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.

10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf. If someone travels to a records repository and makes photocopies for you, always offer to reimburse the expenses.

The above "commandments" apply to online data as well as to printed information. Following the above "commandments" will increase the value of your work and make it valuable to others.

Footnote #1: A primary record is one created at or immediately after the occurrence of the event cited. The record was created by someone who had personal knowledge of the event. Examples include marriage records created by the minister, census records, death certificates created within days after the death, etc. such as the minister, town clerk or census taker.

Footnote #2: A secondary record is one made years after the original event, usually by someone who was not at the original event and did not have personal knowledge of the participants. Most published genealogy books are secondary sources; the authors are writing about events that occurred many years before they wrote the event. Transcribed records are always secondary sources and may have additional errors created in advertently by the transcriber(s). Most online databases are transcribed (secondary) source.

*Posted by Dick Eastman on 19 November, 2010
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MESA DWELLERS



Jan Wilson
Historian - Archivist

I am one of the 76 million Americans born during the post WW II baby boom, also known as the "boomer generation". I grew up listening to the music of the Beatles and the Beach Boys, wishing I could have gone to Woodstock, remembering when President Kennedy was assassinated and the boys that I went to high school with, going off to Vietnam, etc.

I was born Janis Gail Boyles in [redacted] San Diego, California to James Robert and Beulah Mae (Thread) Boyles. The family, which included my older brother and I, lived in Linda Vista, CA. until I was three years old when my parents bought their first house in El Cajon, CA. We lived there for about six years and moved to a bigger house in La Mesa, CA. remaining there while attending elementary, junior high and graduating from Grossmont High School in [redacted] along with 500 classmates.

While in high school I got my first job, part time at "Thrifty's Drug Store" as a cashier and continued working while attending Grossmont Junior College for a year, at which time I decided I wanted to see the world.

Well, I didn't quite get to see the world, but at 19 years old, I left home and moved to Denver, Colorado (which is where my boyfriend was at the time going to college in Pueblo, CO.). After sharing apartments with a few girls and working at various jobs and being on my own for awhile, my boyfriend, Meredith N. Wilson became my husband in October [redacted]. For many years we had our own advertising agency in the Littleton, CO. area. We had two children and raised them in the house we bought in 1971. In 2003 we decided to move over to Grand Junction for a little bit less traffic and fewer people.

My parents didn't have much growing up, therefore, my mom made sure that I had the opportunities to do some of the things that she never did, and when I was young she was always signing me up! I took part in tap dancing and ballet recitals, marched in parades twirling the baton, took accordion lessons (I can't believe I am telling you that), was a girl scout and sold lots of cookies. Something I loved to do growing up was roller skating, until I broke my right wrist falling down and then six months later I broke the left one, so that was the end of roller skating. We always had pets of some kind; cats, dogs, birds, a Shetland pony and even for a short, short period of time a duck! (quack, quack)

I have been researching on and off for about twenty years and have been able to take a few trips to the Family History Library in Utah, and have met numerous relatives along the way that I didn't know. It's been a lot of fun!

Some names that I have researched: Thead, Boyles and Dearman; on my husband's side: Ramberg and Wilson.

By Jan Wilson
Historian and Archivist

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

Objectives:

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

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

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	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 Garcy
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Chair-person	Donna Jackson

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29

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

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

Send to: Kathie Vlahos at: [redacted] or telephone: [redacted]

March 2011 – May 2011 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 10 March 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – *Gazetteers and Maps* by Larry Eucher. Members should bring gazetteers and maps that are important in their research.
- 23 March 2011 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg – *Land Records*
- 14 April 2011 Thursday Evening at County Recorder's Office: 7 p.m. – **We will meet at the County Recorder's Office in Downtown Grand Junction (6th and Rood)** to look at the grantee/grantor and marriage records, indices and the actual records. This trip to the courthouse is comparable to what you may see in counties all across the U.S. Please show up no later than 7:00 p.m.
- 27 April 2011 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg: Possible topic: *Colonial Records, State Censuses, Genealogy Wiki's, or Prison/Institutions*. We need someone to volunteer to present or moderate the program for this meeting.
- 29–30 April 2011 *Annual Family History Fair* at the LDS Stake – Orchard Ave. and Melody Lane.
- 12 May 2011 Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m. – Topic and presenter/moderator to be announced.
- 25 May 2011 Wednesday Noon at C.D. Smith Bldg: Topic and presenter/moderator to be announced.
- September, October, or November 2011, Possible Salt Lake City Research Trip: See President's Message.

Note: Following each Wednesday noon meeting, we have a RootsMagic User Group meeting from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

President's Message

As I have often done in the past I am going to use my President's Message to remind of various resources available as well as future events.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" on NBC is back for a second season. By the time you get this newsletter they will be about half way through the episodes. However, you should be able to access them on NBC.com.

If you're not interested in seeing celebrities and their family history on "Who Do You Think You Are", The Generations Project is a television series on BYUtv about discovering your roots. It takes ordinary people on a hands-on journey to learn about their ancestors and in the process discover more about themselves. There are 13 episodes from the 2010 season and a 2011 season is expected soon. You can watch these on BYUtv if your cable or satellite dish allows you to get that station. Otherwise you can view the past episodes on the internet at <http://www.byutv.org/show/1791>.

A couple weeks ago a message was sent out by e-mail asking members and friends if they are interested in a trip to Salt Lake City to do research at the Family History Library. Suggested dates included 4 nights: September 25-29, 2011, 4 or 5 nights: October 3-8, 2011 and 4, 5 or 6 nights: November 13-19, 2011. Prices are expected to run from \$450 to \$750 for members and \$500 to \$800 for non-members which include transportation and lodging. If you are interested in this research trip, contact Caley Gredig at [REDACTED] or telephone Dennis Jenkins at [REDACTED].

I want to remind you that we will not be meeting at Cross Orchards for our April 14, 2011 evening meeting. Instead, that meeting will be held at the Mesa County Recorder's Office in the County Office building located at the corner of 6th and Rood downtown. As it may be necessary to lock their doors after we are in the building, it will be important that you arrive before 7pm. We will be looking at the records available in the Recorder's Office, including the grantee/grantor books (Land deeds etc)

and Marriage record indexes and the documents they index. An e-mail reminder will be sent out the weekend before the meeting.

The Family History Fair this year will be held at the LDS Stake at Melody Lane and Orchard Avenue on Friday and Saturday April 29th and 30th. Please mark your calendar and check in at the Family History Center to see if they are selling a syllabus.

I would appreciate if members would volunteer to present or moderate a future program. Right now we are looking for someone to help with the April 27th Wednesday Noon meeting. The suggested topics are: Colonial Records, State Censuses, Genealogy Wiki's, or Prison/Institution records. We are also looking for someone to help present or moderate a program for the May 12 evening meeting and May 25th Noon meeting.

Dennis Jenkins

Salt Lake City Trip Information By Caley Gredig

The committee that was formed to research the logistics and costs associated with planning a Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City have compiled the following information and are requesting membership input regarding interest in participating in this trip based on these costs and dates prior to moving forward with further planning. This committee feels that without at least 10 people participating in this trip it would be not be worth while for the MCGS to sponsor this type of trip.

These prices are based on staying at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel which is right next door to the Family History Library and traveling either Amtrak or Greyhound from Grand Junction to Salt Lake City. Depending on the number of people participating in this trip, we may be able to book a Greyhound charter which may reduce the individual cost slightly and change time of travel. We may also be able to negotiate with the hotel on room rates if there is enough interest. We are anticipating limiting the number of participants to a maximum of 45 people but if there are significantly more than this indicating interest, we will explore the possibility of increasing the number.

Non-charter travel times:

Amtrak:

Depart: Grand Junction 4:10 pm Arrive: Salt Lake City 11:05 pm

Return Depart: Salt Lake City 3:30 am Arrive: Grand Junction 10:11 am

Greyhound Regular Schedule:

Depart: Grand Junction 12:35 am Arrive: Salt Lake City 6:15 am

Return Depart: Salt Lake City 6:55 am Arrive: Grand Junction 12:35 pm

If there is enough interest in this trip and a charter is booked, we would be able to choose our own departure times.

The date choices for this trip are:

September 25 - 29, 2011 (4-night option only)

October 3 - 8, 2011 (4 or 5-night options available)

November 13 - 19, 2011 (4, 5 or 6-night options are available)

These dates have been selected based on current hotel availability.

4-night trip Single Occupancy \$550 (MCGS Member), \$600 (Non-member)

4-night trip Double Occupancy \$450 (MCGS Member), \$500 (Non-member)

5-night trip Single Occupancy \$650 (MCGS Member), \$700 (Non-member)

5-night trip Double Occupancy \$500 (MCGS Member), \$550 (Non-member)

6-night trip Single Occupancy \$750 (MCGS Member), \$800 (Non-member)

6-night trip Double Occupancy \$550 (MCGS Member), \$600 (Non-member)

All of these prices include travel to and from Salt Lake City, Lodging while in Salt Lake City and research orientations at both the hotel and the Library. Meals and other incidentals are not included. Each room does have a microwave and refrigerator and the hotel has a complimentary wireless internet as well as a complimentary business center where you can print from your flash drive.

Regardless of which is selected, the committee has determined that in order to move forward and lock in prices we will need to have deposits made by the participants on or before May 10 (25%), July 12 (25%), and 2 weeks before departure (remaining 50%).

Please contact Caley Gredig at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] indicate your interest, with preferred dates, length of trip and mode of travel. Also indicate if any of these dates are definitely not acceptable to you. We hope to be able to compile the results of this inquiry and present a formal proposal to the membership by the March Thursday meeting.

You could also return this survey to the MCGS P.O. Box if you wish:

Please indicate in order of preference:

- September 25 - 29, 2011 - 4 nights
- Week of October 3, 2011 - 4 nights
- Week of October 3, 2011- 5 nights
- Week of November 13, 2011 - 4 nights
- Week of November 13, 2011 - 5 nights
- Week of November 13, 2011 - 6 nights
- These dates do not work for me, but would be interested if a later date is chosen

Announcing the Formation of the Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation would like to announce the creation of the Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans. The organization just started accepting applications January 1, 2011. Its goal is to preserve the stories of sacrifice and achievement of America's "greatest generation"—those who fought and won WWII. It will also enable individuals to prove family ancestry from an American veteran of World War II. The Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans will also be an asset for educator and students as it will create a public database of military records from WWII veterans that will be accessible to historians, authors and students.

Membership is open to relatives by birth, adoption, or marriage of all men and women who served in the United States military in World War II. A Memorial membership is also available for friends of a qualifying veteran who claims no relation. All memberships require proof of service of a veteran between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946. To sign up, and for more information, visit <http://www.nimitzfoundation.org>.

Benefits of membership in the Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans include a social group of like-minded people interested in perpetuating the memories of WWII veterans. As a member, you will receive a numbered and dated certificate bearing your name and the name of your World War II veteran ancestor. That information will be listed in a searchable on-line database.

Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans is a program of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, a non-profit corporation with the mission of preserving, interpreting, and teaching the great history of World War II in the Pacific. The Admiral Nimitz Foundation supports, operates, and manages the National Museum of the Pacific War which is a Texas Historical Commission property located in Fredericksburg, Texas.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation may be found at <http://www.nimitzfoundation.org>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 06, 2011 the above 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>

The Mesa County Genealogical Society recently received an unidentified photograph taken of a 7 month old boy by the name of Carl Olson. The studio taking the photograph was L. R. Phillips studio in Grand Junction, Colorado. It would appear that the photo was taken in the late 1890s to early 1900s.

Some research identifies a possible family associated with a Carl Olson in Grand Junction area about the time frame mentioned above. A Carl Elias Olson was born 5 Feb 1898 in Colorado or Kansas to August Olson and Mary Helen "Nellie" Olson.

Carl Elias Olson married Nannie V. Metzger in 1923 or 1924 in Grand Junction and they had two sons, LaVerne Olson and James R. Olson who was born 15 Jun 1932 in Colorado and died, 25 Jun 2000 in Hawaii.

Carl E. Olson's nephew Merritt Hinshaw Jr. (son of Nannie's sister Effie Metzger Hinshaw) died in Grand Junction in 2002.

If anyone knows of any living relatives of Carl Olson, we would like to get this photo to them. Please contact MCGS via their website: [\[REDACTED\]](#) or Dennis Jenkins, 970-431-2100



Carl Olson
Age 7 months

Two sites you can check for unidentified photographs are: www.deadfred.com and www.ancestorville.com, a photograph of your ancestor's just might be there or you can also submit unidentified photographs you may have.

Planning a Family History Road Trip

By Juliana Smith

With warmer temps, as family historians emerge from their winter hibernation, one thought often springs to mind—"Road Trip!" While it's great to have access to so many materials online these days, there's a special thrill that comes with exploring libraries, archives, cemeteries, courthouses, and other places where our ancestors lived on in a wide variety of rich records.

Whether your destination is a genealogy conference, a large research facility, or a trip to an ancestral hometown, you'll want to be prepared so that you can get the most from your trip. Here are some tips to help you get the most from the opportunities your road trip affords you.

Prioritize Your Options

It seems like there's never enough time to do everything we'd like to on research trips. Do some research online and determine what facilities are available in the area you'll be visiting. Look at your research needs and prioritize which places are "must see" and which are "time permitting." Being able to look at collection information and restrictions online is a huge plus and can save a lot of time and disappointment.

You might also want to consider a phone call to the local library or society. Ask about other family history resources in the area, which you might not be aware of.

Determine Your Research Needs

It's important to review your research and set some goals. What do you hope to accomplish on the trip? Having specific goals like obtaining a probate record from the local courthouse or locating great-grandpa's grave are very helpful. It's also a good idea to allow some extra time to explore collections in search of those unexpected gems. Check websites for information on the records that can be found at the local genealogical or historical society, public libraries with family history collections, courthouses, and other venues. This will help you to plan your trip and get the most from your research time.

You'll want to survey what records are already available online ahead of time too, so you don't waste valuable onsite time working on things you could have done at home. Even visit the websites of cemeteries. You may get lucky and find an index online that will save you time when it comes to locating your ancestor's gravesite.

Make a Packing List

Think about the places you plan to visit and create a packing list for each. You'll want to remember change for copies, pencils and paper for taking notes, reading glasses, a magnifying glass, file folders, a camera, and other research essentials. If you're going to be visiting a cemetery, you'll also want to make sure you have proper attire and tools packed for your outdoor excursions.

Make it Easy to Stay Organized

Your successful research trip will find you returning home with lots of notes and photocopies, and if you don't stay on top of it, you may find it hard to make sense of everything when you get home.

You'll want to be citing the location of sources as you go along, so create a small form that includes the date of your trip, the name of the repository, and spaces for you to record titles and publication details you'll need for your source citation. Ideally it will be a narrow strip you can cut out so that when you go to photocopy a page from a book or some other record, it will fit in the margin or at the very top or bottom of the page. That way you can photocopy it with the record. Then just fill in the blanks and you won't come home trying to remember "Where, oh where, did I find this?"

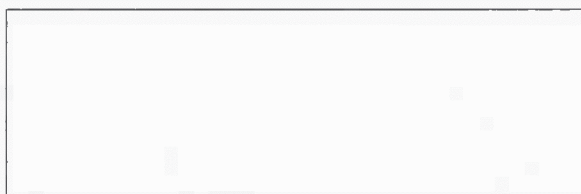
Research logs are also important and you can put your to-do list on them ahead of time as a reminder of what you want to accomplish. Then as you search for each item, you can just enter in the results of your search and the next time you are fortunate enough to visit that place, you won't find yourself repeating research you did on this trip. You can print out a free research calendar, as well as other helpful forms from Ancestry.com. There are also extract forms that allow you to note the important aspects of a record, when photocopying isn't an option.

Whatever your destination is, we hope you'll find what you're looking for – and more. Happy Trails!

Written by Juliana Smith, 15 April 2010 and posted by Ancestry.com Learning Pages. Copyright 2010 by ancestry.com and is re-published here with the permission of ancestry.com

Mesa County Genealogical Society

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A Little-Know Government Genealogy Service

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries.

Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. For \$20, the government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files.

In fiscal year 2009, more than 5,300 requests were made, fewer than expected. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files.

The documents typically include immigration information, often including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin, who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.

For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 17, 2010 the above article is from Eastman's online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2010 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.cogn.com>

Note from the Editor: Scanning of all past issues of MCGS newsletters, which dates back to May 29, 1981, has been completed and these scanned images are searchable and will be available at the Museum of the West, 2nd floor Library, at 5th and Ute, Grand Junction, Co., and hopefully on the MCGS website.