

*When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things, not the great occasions, give off the greatest glow of happiness. Bob Hope*



Volume 33 Issue 4  
December 2013

## Christmas Traditions

### Christmas Traditions

By Kathie Vlahos

Christmas was a time of celebration in my family. There was the 2 -3 days of decorating the house, inside and out. Then came the baking of literally dozens of Christmas cookies and candies, including those traditional recipes that were only done once a year because they were so labor intensive, plus new ones to try and we always made enough to feed a small army! (I still tend to do that!) Christmas Eve was midnight mass and after mass we would open all our presents. On Christmas Day, the grandparents and various relatives would come over for dinner. My maternal grandfather sat and told family stories, boy, do I wish I would have listened closer! Dad was usually watching football, and to this day, the sound of a football game on the TV is comforting.

We all have different Christmas traditions; the old and the new. As our lives change, so can the traditions. This is the time of year to remember our families past and present with all their combined traditions.

*Here are a few Christmas traditions from our members:*

### Christmas Traditions

By Dorothy Roper

I grew up on a dairy farm north of Gunnison CO. My grandmother, my maiden Aunt Kate, two uncles and their families lived in Gunnison. Christmas traditions were

numerous in our family and made it a very special holiday for us children. All the relatives came to our ranch for Christmas Eve. That day preceding Christmas Eve our maiden Aunt Kate, took me and my cousins around town delivering small gifts to shut-ins. On Christmas Eve at our ranch home my cousins and I each got to open one gift. One year Santa Claus showed up at our house and made it very special. Christmas morning all of our families had their own Christmas's at home then we would all would go to Grandmother's house in Gunnison for Christmas dinner. I have many happy memories of those childhood Christmas's in Gunnison.

### Christmas Traditions

By Dennis Jenkins

Growing up in Staples Minnesota, my family always opened presents on Christmas Eve. I also remember most years that one or both of my grandparents were also there. Most years we had Christmas dinner at my Grandparents home on my Mom's side. The thing I remember the most about the food we ate included a special batch of potato salad my Grandma Scharf made without onions just for me. Each year there was mince meat pie and to this day have never eaten it. Of course I did eat the apple and pumpkin pies.

These days, I usually go to my sister's home in Edgewater, Colorado for Christmas and they have a different tradition that includes opening presents on Christmas morning along with stockings with each of our names on them. There is also a tradition of a large cooked breakfast at my sister's home.



# MESA DWELLERS

## Celebrating 120 Years of The Daily Sentinel

1980

By Priscilla Mangnall

This year brings big changes for the Grand Junction retail landscape. Sears is the anchor store as Mesa Mall opens west of town, and consumers in a 100-mile radius flock to shop. Mesa County implements the Crime Stoppers program, and the Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Range near De Beque is dedicated.

Grand Junction continues to boom and becomes recognized as the regional oil headquarters. St. Mary's Air Life program takes flight and the Mesa County Genealogical Society takes root.

*Submitted by Jan Wilson, November 2013  
Published in the Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, CO,  
Saturday, October 19, 2013, page 3A. Permission from the  
Daily Sentinel to reprint, November 14, 2013.*

### From the Editor

A big "Thank you" to Donna Jackson and Garry Brewer who contributed articles to this December Newsletter.

We always enjoy hearing from our members and their success stories. I am sure everyone has one or two success's that our readers would be interested in reading about. It is a great way to share information in breaking through those brickwalls that we all experience along the way in our genealogy research. Please think about sharing your own success story in our newsletter.

We hope that this Christmas finds you all enjoying your old and new Christmas traditions.

Kathie Vlahos - Editor  
Karen Grew-Ellison - Assistant Editor

Have anything for the newsletter? Please contact Kathie Vlahos or Karen Grew-Ellison or go to: [redacted] to submit via-email directly to the editors.

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 at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 1/2 Road at 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	Iris Krogh
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Anita Caldwell

#### Board Members

Jan Wilson	<u>3 year Term</u>
Jill Berthod	2011-2012-2013
Karen Grew-Ellison	2012-2013-2014
	2013-2014-2015

#### 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/Education/Outreach	Caley Gredig & Jill Berthod

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.

You can also go to [redacted] to contribute to the newsletter. Contributions 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).

## December 2013 ~ March 2014 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 6 Dec. 2013            Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Palisade Library Branch.
- 12 Dec. 2013           Thursday Noon: Annual Potluck, 12 p.m. at Donna Jackson's home.
- 3 Jan. 2014            Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Fruita Library.
- 9 Jan. 2014            Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Program to be determined.
- 22 Jan. 2014           Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Discuss local resources including tour of the Mesa County Genealogical Society Library located in the Loyd Files Research Library.
- 7 Feb. 2014            Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Main Library.
- 13 Feb. 2014           Thursday Evening Meeting 7 p.m. at the Commons: Possible share session – Election of Officers.
- 26 Feb. 2014           Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Possible Legacy Webinar (live or archived).
- 7 March 2014           Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Palisade Library Branch.
- 26 April 2014           Saturday: Family History Fair at the LDS Family History Center.
- 13 Sept. 2014           CCGS Seminar at Denver Public Library Featuring John P. Colletta, PhD.
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### President's Message

One of the most important things our Society does for the public is our 1st Friday of the Month Help Sessions at the Main, Fruita, Palisade and De Beque Mesa County Public Libraries. Since we started this service we have helped many people and fortunately we have also gained some new members.

I want to thank Caley Gredig and Jill Berthoud for starting this service. I would also like to thank Jan Wilson, Larry Eucher, Anita Caldwell, Iris Krogh and Dick Pippenger for coming to many of these sessions to help people with their family history research. I have also enjoyed helping out on these 1st Fridays. I would like to encourage more members to offer their help or even come to these sessions to get help yourselves.

I would also like to mention those who have been volunteering to enter obituaries at the Library the past couple years. Thank you to Adela Covey, Jan Wilson and Carole Moritz and myself for the volunteer time given for this ongoing project. We could use a couple more volunteers to enter the data. If anyone is interested, contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at: [REDACTED]

Please note that our December 12th meeting will be at noon at Donna Jackson's home. This is our annual Christmas Pot Luck and directions to Donna's will be in the meeting email reminders.

Upcoming events for 2014 include a Family History Fair at the LDS Family History Center location at Orchard Avenue and Melody Lane on Saturday April 26, 2014. More details will be given as they are available.

I want to also mention a Seminar that will be sponsored by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies on Saturday September 13, 2014 at the Denver Public Library. Expected price is \$35 and will feature well known speaker John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. He is a very dynamic speaker and I would encourage you all to consider attending.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dennis Jenkins

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***Boy on a Bike, 5<sup>th</sup> and Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado – circa 1914 – 1918***



*Picture submitted by Garry Brewer, October 2013*

*Story on page 5*

# Boy on a Bike, a Snapshot in Time

By Garry Brewer

Shown is a photograph, a window in time, of 5th and Rood. A boy rides by the camera lens of local photographer, Frank Dean in the distance past of Grand Junction, Colorado.

A study of the undated picture inclines one to wonder of that boy and the people caught in time of days long gone.

We know the Odd Fellows Hall, now Roper Music was built in 1906, the Dalby Wendland Building or then the old bank on the corner of 5th & Main was built in 1910. The trolley cars, notice the trolley car down the block, were built and in use in May 1909 and the shoe repair shop was in business in 1913. The Fair Store on the corner of Main and 5th Street was built in 1905. The street is still unpaved, that went on until at least 1914. Note the number of buggies on the street & there are not any automobiles on the streets. Also the people are wearing heavier clothing indicating Fall or Winter weather.

So it's before World War I, the United States is just starting to react to the invasion of United States in New Mexico & Texas by Pancho Villa. However, on this day in Grand Junction, people are shopping at Bailey's grocery store, going to the shoe shop, riding the trolley home for lunch, or maybe just eating downtown.

We can, through eyes of our time, ask how much did this boy spend of his hard earned money to buy this bike? Or was it a special gift? Did First World War claim him as a soldier or affect his family with the flu of 1919, the depression of the 1920; did his children fight in the Second World War? Did he live to old age and die a happy man surrounded by his family?

I know from the time period of this photo, my grandparents, are about the same age, my father and mother are not yet born, and hope and joy for this boy on the bike is bright at this place frozen in time. He has everything a boy needs at this moment, *his bike*.

The sun is over head, no shadows on the street, must be noon time. It's a clear day for Frank Dean to set up his camera in the middle of 5th and Rood to catch the little boy who just happened to ride by. Wonder where he is going? To play? To fish? But he is dressed up a little better than usual, maybe a special event or church.

As he rides by, on his bike on his journey from here to there, we hope he found what he was looking for and had an outstanding, wonderful life.

He is our "Forever Puck." Our dreams, our vision of childhood, our dog days of summer where there is a merry-go-round, a fair, friends, picnics, football games in fields, eating ice cream and having loving parents where nothing bad will ever happen. Mom and Dad will always be there to make the hurt go away or we will never grow old, just like this boy on a bike.

Thank you bright eyed boy on a bike, for reminding us of that time of a special moment of our childhood.

*Submitted by Garry Brewer, October 2013*

*Finder of Odd Knowledge, Uninteresting Items, Boring to his Grandchildren, a Pain to his wife on spelling, but a Locator of golden nuggets & truths, & hundreds of hours in the newspaper files.*

*Sources: Museum of Western Colorado, Loyd Files Room, Mike Menard, Snap Photo*

*Garry Brewer  
Grand Junction, Colorado*

## Success Stories

### Is It Time for Professional Help?

By Donna Jackson

Searching for our ancestors can sometimes be very challenging. Possibly the thing we enjoy the most in doing our research is the challenge involved, but it can also be very frustrating at times, and we may need a little extra help, even if it means paying someone for that help. That may be the time to consider hiring a professional genealogist.

One of my challenges was in trying to find where my great grandmother came from, and when she came to this country. I knew that her maiden name was Margaret Jane Kemp, and that she was born in England, but I didn't know where. Her death certificate shows that she was born 4 April, 1869, and she died 28 December, 1958. Her parents are listed as unknown. Her marriage to my great grandfather, Thomas Ellis, took place on 28 July, 1888 in Negaunee, MI. According to their marriage license her father's name was John, and the space for her mother's name was blank. So I had a time frame: she immigrated to America sometime between April, 1869 and July, 1888.

Let me say at the outset that there were no records I could find in Michigan that might be helpful. When I looked online there were a lot of Margaret Kemps listed on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, it was a very common name in England. Since I didn't know where she came from in England, I decided the best place to start would be to try to find when she came to this country. If I could find her name on a ship's passenger log, maybe there would be other family members listed, and that would give me some help in determining which Margaret Kemp out of all those listed was my great grandmother. While I was searching ship passenger lists on Ancestry.com I ran across a name indexed as, "Mayt J. Kemp". That was a strange abbreviation; could that possibly be my great grandmother? I looked at the original image of the manifest for the ship "the City of Rome", which landed in New York on 17 June, 1887, and scanned through the list of passengers. That abbreviation was used several times, although in the other instances it looked more like "Margt", so I concluded it was an abbreviation for Margaret, and that "Mayt J. Kemp" was actually Margt J. Kemp, and was very likely my great grandmother. There were no other Kemps listed. She was 18 years old at the time, and was listed as being a servant. The ship's list only indicated she was from England, but not from where, so that did not offer much help.

Next I searched the "England & Wales Free BMD Index, 1837 – 1915" and found two Margaret Kemps born in the second quarter of 1869. One of them was listed as Margaret Jane Kemp, so I ordered her birth certificate. That shows her birth date as 3 April, 1869 in Wendron, Cornwall, and her parents are Philip Kemp and Peggy Kemp, formerly Pascoe. Oh-oh! Conflicting father's names! Did I have the right person, and how am I going to reconcile the name difference?

I couldn't find a Margaret J. (or Jane) Kemp who would have been the right age, and who had a father named John. I reasoned that the birth date shown on the birth certificate was probably correct; it was only one day different from that shown on her death certificate. Also, it seemed likely that she was from Cornwall. A lot of families had emigrated to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan from Cornwall, and my great grandfather's family was one of them, having come to this country when he was a very young child.

I found the family in the 1871 English census living in Wendron: Philip Kemp, age 27, Margaret Kemp, age 24, and Margaret J. Kemp, age 2. The 1881 English census shows Margaret J. Kemp, age 12, living in the household of her grandparents, Thomas and Catherine Kemp in Wendron. John Kemp, age 23 and his wife, Mary, age 24 were living next door. Philip Kemp did have a brother named John who would have been 23 or 24 years old in 1881. Since I was unsure if I had the right family, and I didn't know where to look next, I put my research on the back burner where it sat for several years.

In the meantime I kept seeing the opportunity to hire a professional genealogist through Ancestry.com. I considered doing that because Margaret Jane was always in the back of my mind, but I thought it would probably cost more than I could afford. Finally, one day out of desperation, I decided to look into it as that would probably be the only way I could possibly find my great grandmother. The process with Ancestry.com was to tell what information I wanted, and to list any



information I had about the person, and it would be put out for genealogists to bid on it. The genealogist I chose, after getting 3 bids, just felt right after the things he told me in his bid. He said that he was very familiar with Cornwall records as his ancestors had lived near Wendron for centuries. He told me that he thought I was on the right track with what I had found so far. He also said he could get me back to 17th century Cornwall, as the line of Kemps is very clear back to the earlier Kempes, which, by the way, I had him do, although that wasn't initially my priority. I just wanted to know if I had the right family, or if there was any way to determine that.

The big question: how can we reconcile Margaret Jane's marriage certificate (father John) with her birth certificate (father Philip)? The genealogist sent me a copy of an item that appeared in the Royal Cornwall Gazette on 14 March, 1874. Philip, who was a mason, fell from a ladder while working on a roof and died on 4 March, 1874. The article states that he was 32 years old and left a wife and one child. Margaret Jane was only 5 years old at the time.

She evidently grew up in the home of her grandparents. The genealogist could find no further record of her mother, and that possibly explains the reason her mother's name was omitted from her marriage certificate. The genealogist's theory is that she took her Uncle John as her adopted father, whether in reality or just by recollection. Perhaps she didn't remember her real father, and maybe she didn't know the names of either her father or mother. At any rate, we'll never know for sure.

So do I believe I found the correct great grandmother? Yes, I do. It all feels right. I would never have had all this information had I not hired a professional in England to research it for me. I would never have known where to start looking since there were so many Margaret Kemps in England. His charges were not unreasonable and did not "break the bank". The point I would like to make is that sometimes we run into brick walls that we simply can't get around, so don't be hesitant about hiring a professional to help you sort it out. It could be well worth the money spent.

*Submitted by Donna Jackson, October, 2013*

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### **If looking for a professional researcher, here are a few suggested websites that may be helpful.**

Cyndi's List is a good place to start for researchers with listings of suggested sites for Professionals, Volunteers & Other Research Services. To visit, go to: <http://www.cyndislist.com/professionals/>

A site recently published by Dick Eastman on his blog page; [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2013/11/greatauntyalicecom.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/11/greatauntyalicecom.html), November 19, 2013 is; <http://greatauntyalice.com/researchers/>. Dick Eastman wrote, "This website has a cute name but is a serious resource for genealogists seeking information in the UK, and elsewhere. Great Aunt Alice is a directory of family history researchers based across the UK and around the world.

Whether you need help with a small specific problem or would like someone to carry out extensive research, Great Aunt Alice has an array of researchers for you to choose from. The site contains listings of genealogists; some are professionals while others are amateurs who would like to help. All genealogy research questions are handled privately in email, not on the website. Of course, professionals expect to be paid for their time and everyone should be reimbursed for any expenses they may incur, such as travel expenses, photocopying fees, postage, and more.

The web site's owner does not receive commissions for clients the researchers receive, and each listing is written by the individual researcher explaining their services. Great Aunt Alice simply serves as a directory to help put people in touch.

You may want to try to contact the Historical Society or a Genealogical Society in the area to see if they could also direct you to a researcher that could help.

## More than 80,000 Digitized Genealogy and Family History Publications are Now Available Online

By Dick Eastman

One of the greatest genealogy resources available today is the huge collection of digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. When I travel to various genealogy conferences and societies, I am often amazed at how many genealogists are unaware of these free resources. Not only are the books and other publications available free of charge, you don't even have to pay for gas to visit these libraries!

These digital books are available at:

Google Books

Archive.org

Allen County Public Library

Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library

Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library

LDS Church History Library

Family History Library

Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center

The menus and the search methods will vary from one site to another. However, a few minutes spent exploring each site's holdings could pay big dividends.

I will say that most newcomers search only for names. In fact, I'll admit that I do the same on my first search on a new web site and I suspect a lot of other experienced genealogists do the same. However, after exhausting the search for names, most experienced genealogists start looking for other search terms. I always look for locations. Many times, I have been successful at finding some tidbit about an ancestor by searching for the county or the town in which he or she lived, even after a search for the person's name produced no results at all.

One of my more successful searches came from searching for the name of the small town in which my great-great-grandparents lived. I knew he was a farmer so I searched for his name plus the name of the small town in which they lived. I was rewarded with a scanned digital booklet of only 42 pages, printed in 1842, that listed all the farmers in the county, along with a detailed description of the farm and even the assessed value of the property. It listed the total acreage of their property, the number of acres under cultivation, the number of acres of woodlands, the number of barns and outbuildings, how many head of cattle, sheep, and swine that they owned, and even the number of chickens. It also listed the crops they sold. I learned a lot more about my great-great-grandparents in that small booklet than I ever found in census records!

When searching old books and other printed information, you have to be creative. You should search not only for locations, but also for fraternal organizations, religious affiliations, veteran's organizations, labor unions, and anything else you can think of.

*Posted by Dick Eastman on 19 June 2013*

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*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>*



## Minnesota Veteran's World War II Photos are now Online

Between 1944 and 1945, Daniel Novak was an Army Photographer assigned to the Signal Corps. He served in India, China and Burma. His still and motion images captured wartime life for both soldiers and famous generals. The duties spanned a wide range, from engaging in fierce battles with the Japanese to building roads and airstrips in the rugged and mountainous terrain.

Army photographers didn't own their work but instead, the images belonged to military archives. They were recently recovered by a fellow photographer who was asked to help in the publication of a history book for Signal Corps. 90-year-old Novak asked for and was given access and has since posted them to a website for everyone to see.

You can read more in an article by Bill Hudson in the WCCO web site at: <http://goo.gl/7ufJql>. To see Novak's photographs, go to his website: <http://www.danielnovak.com>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Valerie Koutek for telling me about these historic photographs.

*Posted by Dick Eastman on 17 November 2013*

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### 2014 Membership renewal

#### Mesa County Genealogical Society – Annual Dues Invoice

(\$10.00 Single, \$12.00 Family per year – covering 3/1/2014 – 2/28/2015) – Payable by March 31, 2014

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_


Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print Clearly) I/We belong to the following

Genealogical Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your check payable to the Mesa County Genealogical Society (or MCGS) and mail application and Dues to: MCGS, P.O. Box 1506, Grand Junction, CO 81502.



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

