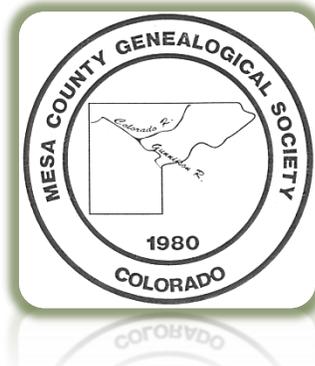


Mesa County Genealogical Society News



Volume 35 December 2015, January, February 2016 Issue 4

Calendar for December 2015 & January, February 2016

4 Dec Friday Help Session at Palisade Library 2 pm to 4 pm

10 Dec Thursday 12 Noon - Members Christmas Potluck at Donna Jackson's Home



2016

8 Jan Friday Help Session at Fruita Library 1 pm to 3 pm

14 Jan Thursday Eve Mtg at Commons 7 pm: View an archived Legacy Webinar: *Mapping Madness* by Ron Arons

27 Jan Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch mtg. at Museum: Member Share
+Public Welcome+

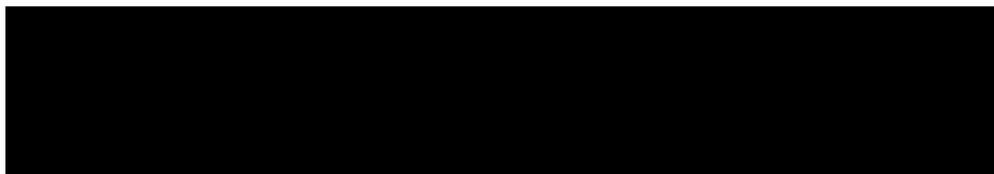
5 Feb Friday Help Session at Central Library 1 pm to 3 pm

11 Feb Thursday Eve Mtg at Commons 7 pm: ***Share, Webinar, Speaker***
& Election of Officers

24 Feb Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch mtg. at Museum
Share, Webinar, Speaker *+Public Welcome+*



4 Mar Friday Help Session at Palisade Library 2 pm to 4 pm



We always encourage sharing of your own research and family stories at every meeting.

MESA DWELLERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is able to share some of the family history research you have accomplished in 2015 when you get together with family during the holidays. About now I usually think about making a calendar with photos and stories about my ancestors that I could send to my family and relatives. Maybe I will start in January for a 2017 calendar so I will be ready for Christmas 2016.

Members are invited to attend our Christmas Pot Luck lunch at Donna Jackson's home on December 10th. Bring along your spouse and family and be prepared to share some of your family history or holiday traditions.

Consider signing up for our next 3 help sessions (to help or be helped) - December 4th 2 to 4 pm at the Palisade Library, January 8th 1 to 3 pm at Fruita Library and February 5 at the Central Library. Use these help sessions as a way to get your research moving into 2016.

Let me know if you have program ideas for our Thursday evening or Wednesday Noon meetings and if you would like to research and present one yourself. You could do so along with another member and even a short presentation will lead to some good discussion on the topic.

Please consider serving your society if the nominating committee asks you to be an officer for 2016.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Dennis Jenkins, President
Mesa County Genealogical Society

From Highlands Ranch Genealogical Society

As always, we appreciate contributions to the newsletter from readers who are members of other societies and organizations than HRGS. Email me your articles, photos of ancestors, and research tips—or whatever interests you about genealogy that you think might be of interest to our readers. As I'm sure you know sharing the fruits of our research is half the fun. Regards,

Dave Barton
Editor HRGS Newsletter

<https://hrgenealogy.wordpress.com> Website

Bring a friend to a meeting!



JUST A REMINDER:
MARCH is RENEWAL TIME!
Please use the membership form included in this newsletter to renew for 2016. Registration form is on the last page.

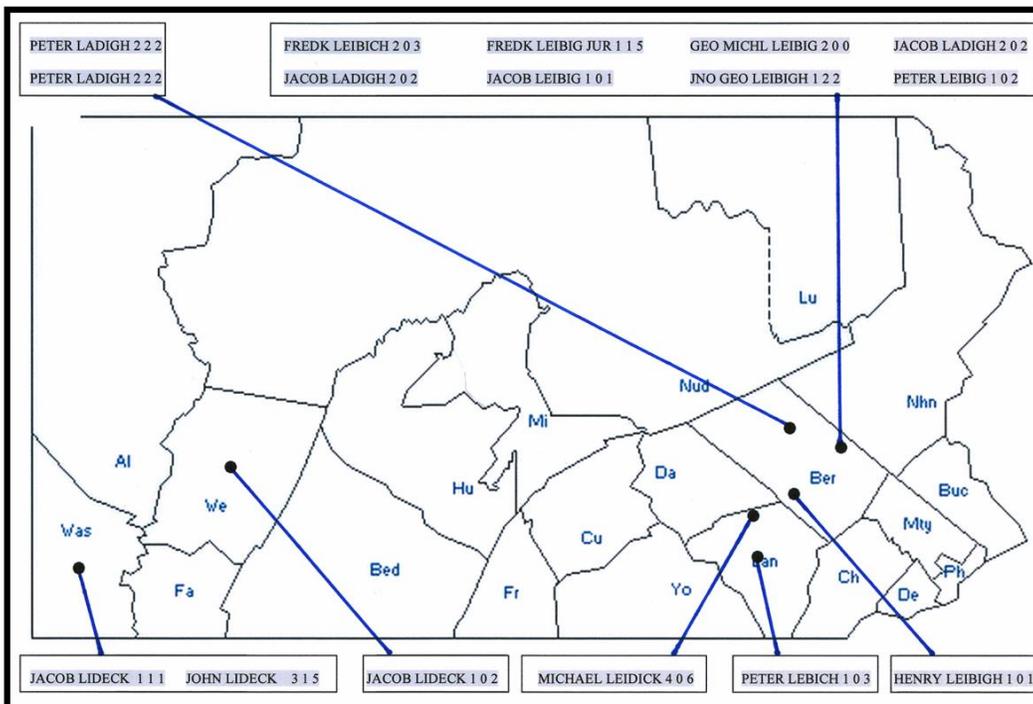
Have a research tip, recollection of an event, or recounting of how you found your ancestors? You can share it with members in the next newsletter.

***Using Census Records with Maps to Identify
the Parents of a Person Born in 1783
Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.**

Members of our family used census records and maps together to find the probable name of an ancestor. Then we hunted evidence that would confirm or refute our suspicions. You can use these methods to solve a wide variety of research puzzles.

Three genealogist cousins had been hunting for the father of our common ancestor, Barbara Leidig, for some time. We knew she had been christened in 1783 in Brickerville, Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania but we did not know either of her parents' names.

I used ancestry.com's United States Census Collection for 1790, asking for Leidig and Leibig and any variant spellings, anywhere in the nation. The search produced 443 hits, but only 16 were reasonable variants of the names wanted. All 16 were in Pennsylvania. Using a state map of that time and the oldest available township maps of each county, I plotted the 16 locations to create the following map. (Each name is followed by the numbers of males 16 and up, males under 16, and females in that household. Only free whites appeared in these families.)



Michael Leidick's household, in the third box of the bottom row, is in Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County. That household includes six females, so Barbara might have been in this family. Both of the nearest families are 18 miles away, which was a day's journey then.

This circumstantial evidence made us suspect that Michael Leidick was our Barbara's father. Our suspicions were confirmed by three independent sets of evidence:

1. A cousin found the will of Leonard Michael Leidig, a resident of Elizabeth Township, who died in 1790 a few weeks after the census was taken. The will mentions his wife Anna Margaret and daughter Barbara.
2. The records of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Brickerville are written in German. With various spellings and abbreviations they show Michael Leidig, his wife Margaretha, and their daughter Margrett attending services in 1772 through 1782.
3. With varying spellings Michael Leidig appears on the tax lists of Elizabeth Township in 1771 through 1782. Those lists do not include anybody with a similar name.

Mapping the census data revealed new information not contained in either source alone, and allowed us to develop clues that led to discovery of confirming documentation.

***Using Census Records with Maps to Identify
the Parents of a Person Born in 1803
Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.**

William English raised his family in the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna River in north-central Pennsylvania. Hundreds of his descendants were documented, but none of his ancestors were known until now.

William's Birth

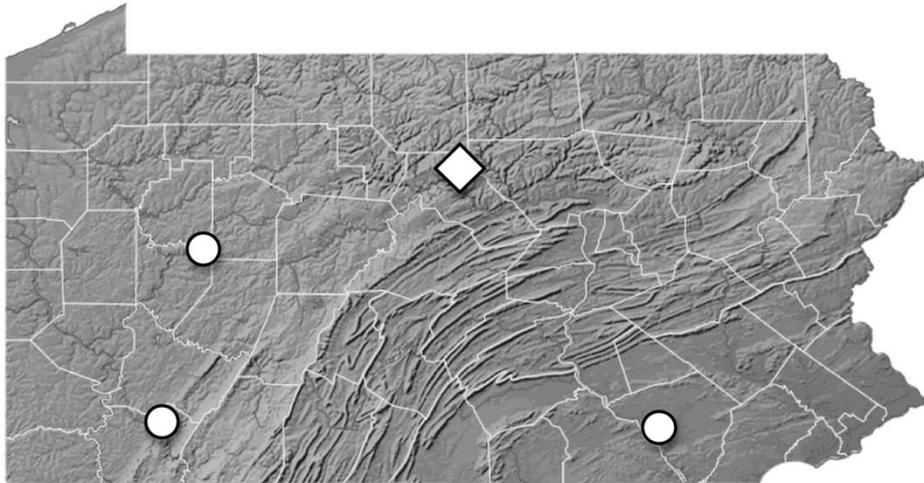
William's obituary, published in Renovo on 19 May 1882, said he was born near Benezette and died at the age of 79 years. (Both places are in the West Branch Valley.) That indicates he was born in 1802 or 1803. Censuses from 1850 through 1880 report ages that indicate he was born in 1803 or 1804. We conclude that he was born in 1803.

Census Results

William, with correct names for his wife and children, is positively and uniquely identified in the censuses of 1880, 1870, 1860, and 1850. He is similarly identified in the 1840 and 1830 censuses with the correct number and genders of children, each of exactly the right age.

Proven birth dates of William's children make it unlikely that he was married in 1820. That year's census does not include a William English household with an adult couple of the correct ages. Neither does it include a William English household without children.

Therefore the 1820 census was searched for households that might include William as a child. That census includes a group for males aged 16 to 18, indicating calculated birth years of 1802 through 1804, or at most 1801 through 1805. Searching the 1820 Pennsylvania census for surnames of English or Inglish or any similar spellings or sounds discovered four households that contained males in the desired age group. Those households are plotted on the following map.



Map Results

On the above map the diamond is in the West Branch Valley. It is in the same township that William English lived in for the last 32 to 42 years of his life. The circles are 114, 171, and 177 miles away. The household marked by the diamond is William's parents' household.

The Household

The 1820 United States Federal [Decennial] Census of Chapman Township, Lycoming County [now in Clinton County], Pennsylvania contains the following entry for the household represented by the diamond on the above map:



William English	1 male	age 16-18
	2 males	age 16-26
	1 male	age 26-45
	1 female	age 16-26
	1 female	age 26-45

1 person engaged in agriculture

Most probably (but not with absolute certainty) that information allows us to describe the household as follows:

husband	age 26-45	born 1775-1794	or 1785 ± 10	William English
wife	age 26-45	born 1775-1794	or 1785 ± 10	
son	age 19-26	born 1794-1801	or 1798 ± 4	William English
daughter	age 16-26	born 1794-1804	or 1799 ± 5	
son	age 16-18	born 1802-1804	or 1803 ± 1	

Results

The father of William English (born 1803) was William English (born 1775-1794). Most probably William English's mother, brother, and sister have been found with their approximate birth years. That household lived in exactly the right place. Using census records with maps revealed new information not contained in either source alone.

This research was reviewed and approved by a professional genealogist who is highly regarded among professionals in her home state.

***Articles were submitted by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.**

Credentials:

- Researcher, teacher, speaker, and writer since 1969.
- Taught many beginner and advanced genealogy classes.
- Over 75 genealogical and historical presentations and publications.
- Past President, Longmont Genealogical Society. Staff, Longmont Family History Center.

We want to hear from YOU!!

Read a good Genealogy book lately? Let us know!

Send the title, author and short paragraph about it.

Find a great website, a state or country that is cooperative

with records, or one that is difficult, share your strategies for better research



This Day in History

Author History.com Staff

Website Name History.com

Publisher A+E Networks

December 1, 1862

Lincoln's State of the Union address

On this day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln addresses the U.S. Congress and speaks some of his most memorable words as he discusses the Northern war effort.

Lincoln used the address to present a moderate message concerning his policy towards slavery. Just 10 weeks before, he had issued his Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that slaves in territories still in rebellion as of January 1, 1863, would be free. The measure was not welcomed by everyone in the North—it met with considerable resistance from conservative Democrats who did not want to fight a war to free slaves.

The November 1862 elections were widely interpreted as a condemnation of the emancipation plan. The Democrats won the New York governorship and 34 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, though the Republicans gained five Senate seats and maintained control of most state legislatures. Lincoln used the State of the Union address to present a more moderate position on emancipation. He mentioned gradual, compensated emancipation of slaves, which many moderates and conservatives desired, but he also asserted that the slaves liberated thus far by Union armies would remain forever free.

Lincoln's closing paragraph was a statement on the trials of the time: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present... fellow citizens, we cannot escape history... The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We *say* we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union... In giving freedom to the slave, we ensure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth."

January 1, 1863

A Nebraska farmer files the first homestead claim

A farmer named Daniel Freeman submits the first claim under the new Homestead Act for a property near Beatrice, Nebraska.

Signed into law in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, the Homestead Act essentially legalized the long-standing American practice of squatting on the vast federal landholdings in the West. Ever since the United States became a nation, intrepid pioneers rushed westward well before the government was prepared to oversee an ordered transfer of land into private hands. Ignoring legal niceties like titles or rent payments, the pioneers began farming and ranching wherever they found promising land, and often the government simply looked the other way. By the mid-19th century, illegal squatting had become such an established practice in the Far West that pioneers began to argue for its legalization. Settlers pointed out that they were building a new civilization in the West with their own money and sweat. Why should they have to pay for public land when they had already shouldered the heavy cost of clearing, breaking, and fencing it? Since the government clearly wanted Americans to settle the West, settlers argued that the government should give land to anyone willing to work hard and sacrifice enough to develop it.

Congress eventually agreed, and it passed a weak version of a homesteading bill in 1860. However, President James Buchanan vetoed the bill under pressure from pro-slavery southerners who wanted to slow the development of non-slave-holding western states. With the outbreak of the Civil War the following year, southern opposition was no longer a consideration, and Lincoln signed the even stronger Homestead Act into law in May 1862. The act authorized any citizen or intended citizen to settle on any surveyed but unclaimed 160-acre tract of public land. If settlers made the specified improvements to the land and paid a small fee, they would gain full title to the property after five years.

Unfortunately, the government failed to reserve much of the best western land for claim under the Homestead Act and instead let it pass into the hands of railroads and speculators. By the 1890s, many homesteaders found that only marginal semi-arid tracts were still available for homesteading.

Profitable farming on only 160 acres of such dry land was nearly impossible, and at least half of the original homesteaders abandoned their claims before they gained title to the property. In the early 20th century, the claim sizes were gradually increased to as much as 640 acres, making irrigation and efficient large-scale farming techniques feasible. Thus, while the majority of early homesteads failed, more than 1.6 million farmers and ranchers eventually fulfilled their contracts and became landowners in the West.

February 1, 1861

Texas secedes

On this day in 1861, Texas becomes the seventh state to secede from the Union when a state convention votes 166 to 8 in favor of the measure.

The Texans who voted to leave the Union did so over the objections of their governor, Sam Houston. A staunch Unionist, Houston's election in 1859 as governor seemed to indicate that Texas did not share the rising secessionist sentiments of the other Southern states.

However, events swayed many Texans to the secessionist cause. John Brown's raid on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in October 1859 had raised the specter of a major slave insurrection, and the ascendant Republican Party made many Texans uneasy about continuing in the Union. After Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in November 1860,

pressure mounted on Houston to call a convention so that Texas could consider secession. He did so reluctantly in January 1861, and sat in silence on February 1 as the convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession. Houston grumbled that Texans were "stilling the voice of reason," and he predicted an "ignoble defeat" for the South. Houston refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and was replaced in March 1861 by his lieutenant governor.

Texas' move completed the first round of secession. Seven states—South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—left the Union before Lincoln took office. Four more states—Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas—waited until the formal start of the Civil War, with the April 1861 firing on Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina, before deciding to leave the Union. The remaining slave states—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri—never mustered the necessary majority for secession.

PBS' "Finding Your Roots"

The third season of *Finding Your Roots* with host Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will start on January 5, 2016. This will be the first broadcast of the series since marking the return of the show since it was revealed that guest Ben Affleck requested deletion of all references to a slave-owning ancestor from the actor's episode of the genealogy series. The new season of *Finding Your Roots* will feature Shonda Rhimes, Neil Patrick Harris and Julianna Margulies. Check your local TV listings for the date and time that the new series will be broadcast on your local PBS station.

ARE YOU A GOOD ANCESTOR?

A good ancestor keeps certificates including birth and death certificates; records including health, military, naturalization, and school; passports; newspaper and church notices; awards; photos; art and craft work; journals; Bibles; diaries; baby, school and wedding books; heirlooms.

He or she dates correspondence, cares for tombstones, keeps research organized, writes or tapes the family stories, and supports family organizations.

A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included, records where material may be found and always sees that at least one other copy of important data is somewhere else.

A hundred years from now, will they think you were a good ancestor?

*from Genealogy Humor
Hosted by Rootse/Ancesry.com*

Member Memories – Stories – Sharing

Thank you for sharing!



This is a Vermont 1933 shot of my Dad, older sister and brother bringing in a Christmas tree from the our farm woods.

Carole Moritz

Today, I usually go to my Sister's in Denver and the tradition is different. There we go to their home or the home of one of her husband's siblings for Christmas Eve where the younger children all exchange gifts. Of course there is lots of food and goodies. Though my family never had Christmas Stockings while growing up in Minnesota, my sister's family hangs a stocking for everyone including one for me. On Christmas morning at my sister's home we open gifts and have a nice breakfast. Then we have a late afternoon Christmas dinner at my sister's home or at the home of one of their friends.

Dennis Jenkins



I have two cast Iron skillets, one from my mom and one from my grandmother. Mostly, my grandmother had an old wood burning cook stove. My mom used a wood burning stove for years till we got electricity installed back in the late 1940s on our farm then she used an electric range

I collect cast iron, but those two are my prize possessions.

Bob Cress



Here is a recipe that has become a traditional Christmas dish (and usually Thanksgiving, too) in my own family for the last forty-some years. When we make it we always double the recipe because it tastes equally delicious the next day, if there's any left.

Red Hot Applesauce Salad

¼ cup red hot candies
1 small pkg. lemon gelatin
1 ½ cups boiling water
1 cup applesauce



Dissolve the candies in the boiling water. Add the gelatin and stir to dissolve. This usually works better if you use only part of the water at a time. Add the applesauce. Chill until firm and then spread with the following topping:

3 oz. pkg. cream cheese 2 tbsp. milk
1 tbsp. mayonnaise 1 or 2 tbsp. sugar

Donna Jackson



Celebrating Christmas in Minnesota and Colorado

In Minnesota we always opened gifts on Christmas Eve and when I have gone back to home since living in Colorado, we still do the same. Christmas Eve also included a Service at the Methodist Church and stopping by the home of a second cousin. Then on Christmas Day we would have a late afternoon Christmas Dinner at one of our Grand Parents homes or at our own home.



Family Christmas Keepsake

When I was very little, about 7 or 8, I remember going to the Plaza in Santa Fe at Christmas. We lived a few miles away but going to town was always exciting. The Plaza in Santa Fe was surrounded by all the stores that were popular for shopping--Sears, Penny's, Woolworth, etc. and everything was always beautifully decorated. My sisters and I were with my Mother shopping in Woolworth's and saw bins of figures for the Nativity. I remember we didn't have a Nativity set and my Mother decided we needed one. It was so exciting for us to pick out each figure. Some were plastic, some were chalk ware and they were stamped "made in Italy". This little Nativity set always had a special place in our home growing up. They certainly started to show a little wear and tear over the years as my little brothers like to "play" with them.

It was very exciting for me a few years ago when my Mother sent it to me before Christmas. It still has a special place in our home.

Stella Ledbetter



My mother, brother and I lived with my Grandmother Johnston while I was growing up. At Christmas my mother and grandmother would make old fashioned fudge and brown sugar fudge which was one of my favorites. My mother would make a fruit cake that used molasses and raisins which

was a favorite of mine but not my family. The house was always full of aunts, uncles and cousins at Christmas.

After I got married Floyd and I started our own traditions. We were fortunate that our families lived in close proximity that we could spend time with each of them during the holidays. Christmas was a time when Floyd's family celebrated Christmas on Christmas Eve which made it easy to celebrate with my side of the family on Christmas Day.

As time passed the traditional cookies I make at Christmas came from my Aunt Rose Petrafeso Johnston. I now make pizzelles and scaldies (an Italian cookie that is deep fried and then dipped in warm honey before

served). Sometimes I throw in other cookies or brownies.

My husband and I try to have our children and grandchildren with us on Christmas. Christmas morning is a hilarious time that can start really early or really late. We open our presents one present at a time so that we can laugh, take pictures and enjoy each other. There is lots of drinking coffee and snacking. We usually have a traditional Christmas dinner with everyone's favorites and everyone sharing in the preparation of the dinner. I fixed the turkey, gravy and potatoes. The rest of the menu is up to rest of family.

Maggie Unfred

In our family St. Patrick's Day was really special. Our family lived close together so the get togethers could be large. My great great-grandmother, Anna Fitzgerald, felt it was important to remember where we came from. We cooked up corned beef and cabbage, made up the traditional Blaney stones (which was a sponge cake cut into brick shapes, frosted on all sides and rolled in crushed peanuts.) Once dinner was over we sang songs like O Danny Boy, Irish Eyes, etc. Festivities always included dancing of the Irish jig.



Pat Berry

Christmas Memories

Plenty of snow for snowmen, snowball fights and forts

**The tree with tinsel, lights, and angel on top
Cookies baking in the oven**

**Christmas morning, treasures in your stocking;
An orange, nuts, candy cane and new crayons
and coloring book.**

**The smell of turkey cooking while we open gifts
Dinner with family and friends.**

Laurie Buniger

Christmas 1981 at the "Wilson" house - back then, a classic family photo, taken when you had to set your camera on "self timer", and hoped that it would be O.K. ! - today, we call it a "family selfie" taken with your phone or digital camera.



Janis Wilson

Backside of mom's gravestone. Everytime someone asked for her cookie recipe, she said, "Over my dead body!"



A Christmas Treasure Hunt

This Gala Treasure Hunt was one of my memorable Christmas memories. My sister, Laurie (Buniger) was 2 years old, my brother was 5 and I was 10 years old. Our parents and friends and other family members were all a twitter with the excitement over the prizes that were being offered. There was exciting talk and speculation about the numbers in the store windows and how many people would be competing. This contest had specific rules which required some exacting effort on the adults part, anyone over 18. We got dressed up in winter coats, gloves and hats. My mother had a new pair of black suede high heeled boots with black fur around the top. I remember admiring her being so dressed up. My dad put my sister on his shoulders, the better for her to see and not get tired or lost. I held on to my brother's hand. There were so many Grand Junction residents on Main Street that the sidewalks were crowded. We would see friends from school or church. It was cold, getting ready to snow, 30-something. We walked block after block listening to all the other excited people cheering when they found the numbers in the windows then hurrying on to the next stores. At the end of the evening I was cold and a bit tired. My dad took us to the little store next to the Avalon, then the Cooper theater. The little shop sold its specialty, KarmalKorn. He bought a bag for all of us to share; it was warm and sweet. There were so many people there too, that we had to wait in line outside to get into..... the original Enstroms candy store. I can close my eyes and still remember the smell.

Sweet Memories.



Thank you for sharing your memories.



Ad reprinted from the November 26, 1957 Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, CO

A Genealogists Christmas Song

On the twelve days of Christmas, my
true love gave to me:

Twelve Census searches, Eleven
family Bibles, Ten email contacts,
Nine headstone rubbings,
Eight wills and admons, Seven
miners mining, Six second cousins,
Five coats of arms,
Four GEDCOM files, Three Old
wills, Two CD-Roms, and a branch on
My Family Tree. 

from OCCGS newsletter
December 2014



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.
5. To publish a quarterly newsletter sent to members.
 - **Society evening meetings** are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Commons of Hilltop Garden Room, located at 625 27 ½ Road at 7:00 pm. (*Except August - potluck picnic and December – noon potluck*)
 - **Monthly sack lunch meeting** is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the 2nd floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5th & Ute Streets at 12 noon (*Except November & December*)
 - **Regular Business meeting** will follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1 pm – 2 pm.

Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Stella Ledbetter
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Laurie Buniger

Board Members

Carole Moritz	<u>3 year Term</u> 2014-2015-2016
Kathie Vlahos	2015-2016-2017
Donna Jones	- 2015

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Buniger
Assistant Editor	Karen McGuirk
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 30th of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

Printing for the Mesa Dwellers provided by
All Star Copy and Fax
2860 ½ North Avenue, Grand Junction, Co. 81501
970-241-2674 or allstarcopy@gmail.com

Registration form is
on the last page of 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).

Mesa County Genealogical Society


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

2016 Membership Renewal
Mesa County Genealogical Society – Annual Dues Invoice

(\$10.00 Single \$12.00 Family per year – covering 3/1/2016 – 2/29/2017 +Payable by March 31, 2016

Renewal New Member

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ (Please Print Clearly)

I/We belong to the following Genealogical Societies: _____

I would like to help with: Research Queries Classes Presentations Community Activities

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

