

Mesa County Genealogical Society News



Volume 36

June, July, August 2016

Issue 2

Calendar for June, July, August 2016

- 3 June 2016** Friday 2-4 pm Help Session at **Palisade** Library
- 9 June 2016** Thursday Eve 7 pm at the Commons: DNA Part 6 by Larry Eucher
- 22 June 2016** Wednesday Noon at Museum: Share Brickwalls in your research
- 1 July 2016** Friday 1-3 pm Help Session at **Fruita** Library
- 14 July 2016** Thursday Eve 7 pm at the Commons: Share your colorful (Black Sheep) ancestors
- 27 July 2016** Wednesday Noon at Museum: Archived Webinar
"Navigating Naturalization Records" by Lisa Alzo
- 5 Aug 2016** Friday 1-3 pm Help Session at **Main** Library
- 11 Aug 2016** Thursday 6 pm Annual Pot Luck Picnic at Stella Ledbetter's home
- 24 Aug 2016** Wednesday Noon at Museum: Archived Webinar
"Guided Tour of Cyndi's List 2.0" by Cyndi Ingle
- 2 Sep 2016** Friday 2-4 pm Help Session at **Palisade** Library



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.



WELCOME = New Member

Larry Coombs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With summer approaching many of us will be travelling and I hope you will be able to do some of your family history research in the places you visit. Though we are now able to do more and more of our research on the internet, there are many records that require us to contact or visit the place our ancestors lived.

One example is researching our ancestors lives in early newspapers. I am fortunate to have ancestors who lived in small communities. I have found numerous stories about family members in the gossip or local items in the small town newspapers. Unfortunately many of the early issues of these newspapers have not been digitized and made available on the internet. Two places that I have accessed these newspapers are the State Historical Societies in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Though they are beginning to digitize the old newspapers, they won't be available on the internet for quite a while. Thus as a researcher you need to either order them on interlibrary loan or actually go to the place they are housed.

Back to using the internet for your research, I hope many of you are not avoiding the websites that require a subscription. You can access Ancestry.com at the public library and the local Family History Center. The Family History Center also has many subscription databases available including Fold3.com. Did you know that Ancestry.com and Fold3.com both have some free to use databases. You may need to set up a user name and password to access them such as you need if you want to look at the information in FamilySearch.org FamilyTree.

Give these websites a try and have a great summer.

Dennis Jenkins, President

Mesa County Genealogical Society

Great Books By Ted Bainbridge

Have you inherited a wonderful family story - something historic or dramatic? Read *Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends*. This is a collection of real family legends, with descriptions of how each was proved or disproved. The book also describes some common kinds of legends, such as being George Washington's right hand man, and explains their extreme improbability.

Got brick walls? Get *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems*. It describes brick walls the contributors encountered and explains how each was overcome. Some of these stories are amazing.

Both books give experienced genealogists specific ideas about overcoming problems that exist, and both provide excellent advice for beginners. If the library nearest you doesn't have these books, ask them to get them for you via the Interlibrary Loan service.

One on One Help Sessions

These sessions are available to the public as well as the MCGS members. The rotate between the different Public Library branches (Main, Fruita, Palisade) If you need help researching, knowing what and where to search next, or just need an ear to help you think through a problem, come to a session. Register for a space on the Mesa County Public Library site:

www.mesacountylibraries.org

When you register, it allows us to know how many MCGS members are needed to offer assistance.

JUST A REMINDER:
MARCH was RENEWAL TIME!

Please use the membership form included in this newsletter to renew for 2016. Registration form is on the last page.



Colorado Adoption Records Now Accessible

Submitted by Ted Bainbridge

On 1 January 2016, Colorado adoption records, including original birth certificates, became more accessible to members of the adoption triad (birth parents, adoptive parents, and the adoptee) and their descendants. The state also maintains a registry to facilitate mutually voluntary contact between adoptees and their birth parents. These sites are useful:

Order an original birth certificate, access the registry, get more information, use more services:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/adoption>

Get several kinds of adoption forms and applications:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/adoption-forms-and-applications> .

Current Colorado adoption law:

[http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2014a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont2/6C28B25156ACB42487257C390066636B/\\$FILE/051_01.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2014a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont2/6C28B25156ACB42487257C390066636B/$FILE/051_01.pdf)

History of Colorado adoption law: <http://www.aisctc.org/index.php/laws/co-history>

It is the First of the Month: Back Up Your Genealogy Files

Dick Eastman · June 1, 2016



It is the first day of the month. It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!

Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often.

Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files.

Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

DNA Studies by MCGS

The final discussion will be on Thursday, June 9 at 7:00 pm in the Hilltop Garden Room at The Commons, 625 27 ½ Road. You are welcome to join us. The topic of "Genetics & Genealogy" will be a wrap-up for our series. Larry will lead discussions to highlight terms and concepts covered in the examples, review sources and software used, where to look for more information, comment on Insurance, Legal, Privacy issues, and examine where the technology is, where it is going, how changes may affect our future research efforts as genealogists.



Actual letters to the Family History Department.

"Would you believe...these are copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department. The excerpts were sent to my LDS Stay-Home Moms list from the list owner. I don't know where she found them." From: Charlotte Meyer via WGW-List on 19 Sep 98

- Our 2nd great grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library. He was married 3 times in the endowment house and has 21 children. He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
- I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
- Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
- My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
- Documentation: Family Bible in possession of Aunt Merle until the tornado hit Topeka, Kansas, now only the Good Lord know where it is . . .
- The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn -- what do you think?
- I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.
- Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do.
- I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found.
- This family had 7 nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are, please add them to the list.
- We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?
- Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
- A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research."

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





You know you're
a genealogist
if you evaluate
the surnames of

acquaintances (along with
complete strangers) to see how
they might be related.

Michael's Blogs

from Genealogist Michael John Neill

He maintains the following genealogy blogs:

- **Rootdig.com**—Michael's thoughts, research problems, suggestions, and whatever else crosses his desk
- **Genealogy Tip of the Day**—one genealogy research tip every day—short and to the point
- **Genealogy Search Tip**—websites I've discovered and the occasional online research tip—short and to the point
- **Genealogy Transcriber**—one piece of hand-writing every day—with the answer.

Noon Meetings

Join us at the Museum of the West at 5th and Ute from 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month (Jan.-Oct.) for a genealogy learning experience.

We have webinars, sharing sessions, and group discussions. You are welcome to stop by - bring your lunch and share your genealogy experiences, ask questions, or view a webinar. Hope to see you soon!

Printing for the Mesa Dwellers provided by

All Star Copy and Fax

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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

3 year Term

2014-2015-2016

Kathie Vlahos

2015-2016-2017

Connie Bunte

2016-2017-2018

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.

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).

A Genealogy Intro

Dick Eastman · June 2, 2016 ·

I suspect that most people reading this newsletter already know the information presented in this article. However, I will invite you to print it or send it via e-mail to anyone who expresses an interest in researching their own family tree or asks why you have such an interest. Also please feel free to reprint this article in newsletters, newspaper articles or anyplace else that you feel might be appropriate. (I would appreciate your giving credit to the author, however. Thanks.)

Do you have a curiosity about your 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 without 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 https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms and at <http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts> and <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms/> (where it is called an "Ancestral Form.")

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.

Pedigree Chart # _____

The form is a pedigree chart template. It starts with a box for the individual being researched, containing fields for 'Name', 'Born', 'Married', 'Place', 'Date', and 'Place'. This box is connected to two boxes representing parents. Each parent box has the same fields. Each parent box is further connected to two boxes representing grandparents, also with the same fields. At the bottom left, there are fields for 'Prepared By' and 'Date'.

Next, move back one generation, and fill in the same information for both of your parents: name, date and place of birth, date 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, newspaper clippings, and so on. The memorabilia you find will surprise 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 – in fact, the list of places where you may find clues is almost endless.

Generally speaking, it's easier to search through indexes and compiled records that are available on the internet at the beginning of your family tree discovery tour. Always keep in mind that not all the genealogy information is available online!

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 any religious materials or lectures (unless you ask). You can find the Family History Center closest to your location if you start at <https://familysearch.org/locations/>.

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.

Information about many genealogy programs may be found by starting at <https://blog.eogn.com/category/software/>. A list of Macintosh genealogy programs may be found at <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/03/18/genealogy-software-for-the-macintosh/>. Genealogy Apps for Android and Chromebooks may be found at <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/05/31/genealogy-apps-for-android-and-chromebooks/>.

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?

Mesa County Genealogical Society

[Redacted]
P.O. Box 1506
Grand Junction, CO
81502-1506

**Bring a friend
to a meeting!**



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.