

Volume 17, Issue 1

January, February, March 2007

CRIME FAMILIES or FAMILY CRIMINALS

WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

FAMILY CRIMINALS By Charles H. Woolsey

Criminals in my family, are you kidding? We have all been upstanding citizens! That is what my grandmother always told me, We are not related to the likes of Al Capone. Well look a little closer, many persons had a little brush with the law. Especially if you go back to prohibition and the Civil War. My wife had a great great grandfather, that after the civil war was running from justice. The family story passed down was that his wife would sneak out at night and leave food and a little money, if she could, and that is how he sustained himself. Then one time he did not show up to gather the items left and they never heard from him again. So far we have found no record of what happened. Of course in the south following the civil war there were many marauders who plundered the countryside and took what they wanted no matter which side you had been on Union or Confederate. So many times the law simply eliminated lawbreakers, if they found them, and left no record. Such were things in the post civil war south. Look for information from family stories and family bibles that may be all

there is.

Usually that is not the case and law-breakers generally leave lots of records. That makes them easier to find and for you to get some idea of what they were like. Sometimes they were not really criminals, but were involved in a lot litigation because of trouble with their neighbors.

So go to the probate records of the court. This is not always a simple matter. Some of the records are kept by the state. But many of the records, especially in the south, were kept by the county, parish or sometimes the city. Another place some of the records for minor infractions and minor lawsuits were kept by Justices of the Peace. Hopefully the records you are looking for were given to the county or state when the person ceased to be a Justice of the Peace. This is not always the case. Contact genealogical and historical societies and see what records they have. In a couple instances when I was looking for such records, that is where I found them. There was no requirement in early times for the records to be turned over to any specific authority. So good luck hunting.

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AN INVITATION

The Mission Oaks Genealogy Club is a nonprofit organization. It was founded in 1984 to provide education and training for its members and the general public on the techniques, methods, resources and facilities used in the pursuit of genealogical research; to promote the collection and preservation of genealogical historical materials; and to cultivate public awareness of the educational and historical value of genealogical research.

We invite your attendance and membership. Where else can inspiration, knowledge, fellowship and entertainment be found twelve times a year, plus a quarterly newsletter, for only \$12.00? These five big "Ws" have been enlisted to provide you with our vital statistics:

Why do we meet? For learning, sharing, fun and fellowship.

What do we do? ... Hold a variety of monthly meetings to keep our interest and whet our appetites for "fruit" to be garnered from our very own tree of genealogical delights.

When do we meet? ... Every third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 P. M.

Where do we meet? ... Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California.

Who may attend? ...Anyone, visitors and new members are always welcome.

We freely admit we have been bitten by the gene-bug and are looking for new people to infect to come in contact with us may be the end of life as we know it. There is no known cure once infection has occurred

HOW TO JOIN

You may join the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club by attending a meeting and paying your dues in person or by sending your

Name, address, telephone number and a

Check for

\$12.00 payable to:

Mission Oaks Genealogy Club

P. O. Box 216

Carmichael, CA 95609-0216

MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

—Subject to Change—

Thursday, Dec 21

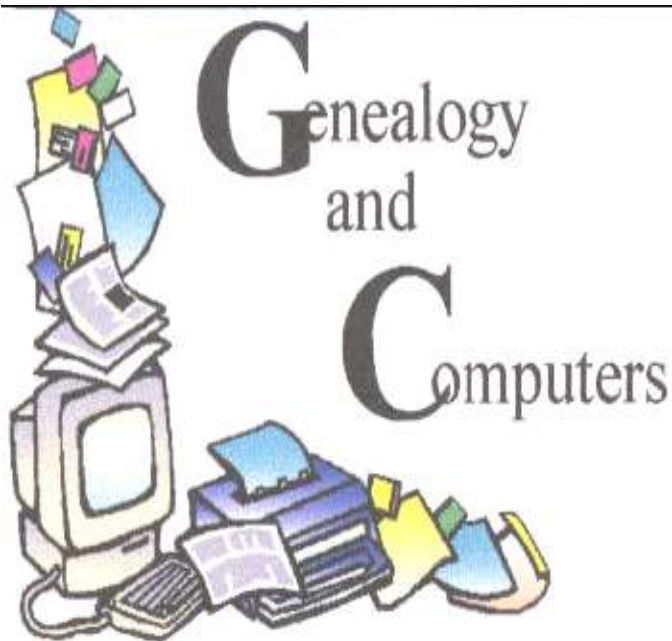
Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Thursday, Jan 18, 2007

Speaker is Susan Jackman, Genealogy

Lecturer and Teacher

(cont. on page 5)



MOLUG PC Meetings

The Mission Oaks Legacy Users Group (MOLUG) can be another way for you to become more familiar with using a PC computer as in adjunct to your genealogy efforts. Legacy is a computer program that can help you record your genealogical information and manage the results of your genealogical research.

This group meets the first Thursday of each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, in the Club Room of the Mission Oaks Senior Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California. We have step-by-step planned presentations on the use of this commendable software. Come join us. For more information, call Elizabeth Kohler at 916-482-8531.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What's old, made of glass and found in a photographic case?

Answer for question from last newsletter;

Tintype
Or
Ferrotypes

Next Generation DVD's

Running out of space for your family history photos and videos on your single-sided 4.7 gigabyte (GB) DVD? Do not despair. The next generation DVD's are coming, perhaps appearing later this year. Blu-ray (using a blue laser) can record 25 GB on each layer of a DVD. HD-DVD can record 15 GB. Both of those systems could pack even more on a multilayered DVD. All of these will be competing with holographic storage. One polymer module could hold anywhere from hundreds to thousands of gigabytes. Two companies plan to release a holographic storage system sometime next year. But the best is yet to come (perhaps sometime after 2010). Data on a DVD is written as a series of "pits." Currently they are all the same size and shape. But what if you wrote those pits out in different shapes? Imperial College London estimates that this technique could pack a terabyte (1,000 GB) onto a four-layered DVD.

TIMELINES

By Charles Woolsey

When you are trying to figure why your ancestors left one place and went to another, it is extremely important to know what was going on where they were. One easy source of information is in Thrift Stores and Used book shops. When schools obtain new history and geography books, they donate the old books to many sources. Thrift stores end up with many of these books. They are cheap and an easy source of what was going on in the world at certain times in history. Also the geography books show boundaries of countries at certain times in history. For instance what did the Austro-Hungarian Empire look like at a certain date in history.

I have several very old history books, 1930 and before, They are a good source of information and give you a glimpse of what things were like before many of you were born. And wouldn't it be fascination to see a history book used in schools between the 1860s and 1880s. They have a completely unique point of view.

Who, What, Where, When. And Why Did They Leave By Ancestry.com

America has experienced a number of surges in immigrants arriving on its doorstep — from all over the world — but what about the countries that faced periods of mass emigration when their people departed for America?

1. Ireland

1847-60: Potato famine

2. England

1600s: Overcrowding; excess population sent to New World

1870, 1881-90: Overcrowding and poverty; skilled laborers seeking better opportunities.

3. Italy

1891-1910: Low wages, high taxes, poverty; desire to own land.

4. France

1851: Political refugees of 1848 Revolution

5. East Prussia

1871-80: Religious tension as Prussia became part of Germany.

6. Germany

1683-1820: Religious persecution, wars, hardships.

1820-71: Escaping war and military service.

1843-59: Crop failure, unsuccessful German Revolution (1848).

1865-74: Skilled workers transferred to U. S. companies, German Catholics expelled.

1871-1914: Religious persecution, political unrest.

7. Poland

1880-1914: Jews escaping religious persecution; Poles escaping “Justification”.

8. Austro-Hungarian Empire

1880-1914: Ethnic tension, mandatory military service.

9. Russia

1901-10: Violence, riots (pogroms) targeting Gypsies and Jews.

10. Greece

Early-mid 1900s: Religious persecution.

11. Armenia

1901-10: Religious persecution.

12. China

Mid-1800s: Famine, epidemics, repression, civil Wars, Gold Rush.

13. Korea

Early 1900s: Racial tension.

14. Vietnam

1975: Economic conditions, fall of Saigon.

15. Mexico

1980-present: Jobs, economic opportunity.

16. Cuba and Puerto Rico

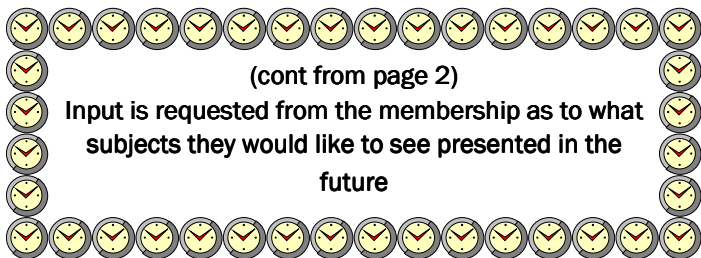
1959-61: Castro’s Revolution

1966: Cuban Refugee Act permits more than 400,000 people to enter the United States.

17. Scandinavia

1881-1900: Crop failure, unemployment; seeking opportunity.

Who knows what future conditions will foster the movement of people, not only to the United States but to other countries as they develop new and vibrant economies.



(cont from page 2)

Input is requested from the membership as to what subjects they would like to see presented in the future

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY ROOM

Using the 1852 California State Census

The first federal census conducted in California was taken in 1850, while the Gold Rush was in full swing. Adventurers were pouring into the state, and they were very mobile in their search for the next pay dirt. As a result, the accuracy of the count was questionable. Also, records for the counties of Contra Costa, San Francisco and Santa Clara were lost or destroyed.

To obtain a more reliable picture of the population, the State of California conducted its own census in 1852, the only one in the state's history. The original census is housed at the State Archives, but it is available on microfilm in the California History Room.. Because the microfilm is difficult to read, the Daughters of the American Revolution of California created a transcription of the census, as well as an index. The California History Room has both print and microfilm copies of the transcription.

** Original census microfilm, M/F 144, filed in census microfilm drawers. Filmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City. Some parts are difficult to read, and the film lacks the following counties: Colusa, Sutter, Marin

Reel 1. Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado (Pt.1).

Reel 2. El Dorado (Pt. 2), Los Angeles, Mariposa, Klamath, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada.

Reel 3. Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco (Pt. 1).

Reel 4. San Francisco (Pt. 2), San Joaquin (Pt. 1).

Reel 5. San Joaquin (pt. 2), San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, Tulare.

Reel 6. Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba

The Microfilm is available through interlibrary loan.

ATTENTION

Are you looking for an old book that was published and may contain stories about your ancestors ? There are some 500 or so sites that sell books on the internet. Now there is one site that combs these sites looking for the books you want.

Bookfinder.com

You enter the title and author and they do the work.

QUERIES

Have you encountered a brick wall? A dead end that seems to be very unforgiving and no amount of digging can seem to solve your problem. I have encountered that many times, and the way around several times turned out to be an answer to one of the many queries that I had posted. An ancestor that grew up an orphan and was never formally adopted. Informal adoptions leave no paper trail and most times are almost impossible to find. Prior to 1900 formal adoptions were not the norm.

Send Your Queries to the Editor

Charles H. Woolsey

2631 Darwin St

Sacramento, CA, 95821

Email: chwoolsey@aol.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Queries may be submitted on a 3X5 card or may be mailed to the above address. Queries will published free for members as space permits. Take advantage of this resource, you may find the answer to a long sought connection.

Charles Woolsey - Editor

As I have had no members submit names, I will make a listing of my family names in hopes that I can make a connection with someone who is investigating the same families.

Woolsey	Banta	Burklow
Decker	Tune	Cozens
McMillian	Wills	Galloway
Kight	Jacobs	Lay
Leon	Phelps	Richardson
May	Jones	Moody
Taylor	Smith	Burkett
Young	Orcutt	Hooper

GRANDMA'S MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Many times when looking at death certificates or records relating to deaths or illnesses, the terminology leaves us 'guessing' what it actually was. The Collection below will bring some of those words into meaning.

(continued from 2006 newsletter)

Dysury - Difficulty in unination

Eclampsy - Symptoms of epilepsy, convulsions during labor.

Ecstasy - A form of catalepsy characterized by loss of reason.

Edema - Nephrosis; swelling of tussues.

Edema of lungs - Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy

Eel thing - Erysipelas

Elephantiasis - A form of leprosy

Encephalitis - Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness.

Enteric fever - Typhoid fever.

Enterocolitis - Inflammation of the intestines

Enteritis - Inflation of the bowels

Epitaxis - Nose bleed

Erysipelas - Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular and bulbous lesions

Extravasted blood - Rupture of a blood vessel

Falling sickness - Eplipsy

Fatty Liver - Cirrhosis of liver

Fits - Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity

Flux - An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea

Flux of humour - Circulation

French pox - Syphilis

Gathering - A collection of pus

Glandular fever - Mononucleosis

Great pox - Syphilis

Green fever /sickness - Anemia

Grippe/grip - Influenza like symptoms

Grocer's itch - Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour.

Heart sickness - Condition caused by loss of salt from body

Heat Stroke - Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature, Coma and death result if not reversed.

King's evil - Tuberculosis of neck and lymph glands.

Hectical complaint - Recurrent fever

Hematemisis - Vomiting blood

Hematuria - Bloody urine

Hemiplegy - Paralysis of one side of body

Hip gout - Osteomyelitis

Horrors - Deliriums tremens

Hydrocephalus - enlargement head, water on the brain

Hydropericardium - Heart dropsy

Hydrophobia - Rabies

Hydrothorax - Dropsy in chest

Hypertrophic - Enlargement of organ, like the heart

Impetigo - Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules

Inanition - Physical condition resulting from lack of food

Infantile paralysis - Polio

Intestinal colic - Abdominal pain due to improper diet

Jail Fever - Typhus

Jaundice - Condition caused by blockage of intestines

Kruchhusten - Whooping cough

Lagrippe - Influenza

Lockjaw - Tetanus of infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days.

Long sickness - Tuberculosis

Lues disease - Syphilis

Lues venera - Venereal disease

Lumbago - Back pain

Lung fever - Pneumonia

Lung sickness - Tuberculosis

Lying in - Time of delivery of infant

Malignant sore throat - Diptheria

Mania - Insanity

Marasmus - Progressive wasting away of body, like Malnutrition

Membranous Croup - Diptheria

Meningitis - Inflations of brain or spinal cord.

Metritis - Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal Discharge

Miasma - Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air.

Milk fever - Disease from dringing contaminated milk, like undulant fever or brucellosis

Milk Leg - Post partum thrombophlebitis

Milk sickness - Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds

Mormal - Gangrene

Morphew - Scurvy blisters on the body

Mortification - Gangrene of necrotic tissue

Myelitis - Inflammation of the spine

Myocardis - Inflammation of the heart muscle

(continued in summer newsletter)

Federal Government Access

Family Tree Magazine News Service

Requesting ancestors' immigration records from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS:formerly called Immigration and Naturalization Services) may soon get easier. The April 20 Federal Register, the government publication that records goings-on in federal agencies, printed USCIS' proposals for a program to handle your genealogy-related requests for historical naturalization, alien registration and other immigration records.

Currently, USCIS lumps those genealogical inquiries—which number about 10,000 per year—with other Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, creating a huge backlog. FOIA restrictions rarely apply to USCIS' historical records, anyway, because the subjects of the old documents usually are deceased.

USCIS estimates the new genealogy program would handle 26,000 requests per year, with fees for searching indexes and copying records such as:

* Naturalization Certificate Files (C-files) dated Sept. 27, 1906, to April 1, 1956, containing information related to applications for citizenship.

* Alien Registration Forms (AR-2) completed by aliens age 14 and older who lived in or entered the United States between Aug. 1, 1940, and March 31, 1944.

* Visa Files, dated July 1, 1924, to March 31, 1944, which contain information on immigrants admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration Act of 1924.

* Registry Files, dated March 2, 1929, to March 31, 1944, containing information on immigrants who entered the United States before July 1, 1924, whose original arrival records were lost.

* A-files, case files containing all an individual's Immigration records since April 1, 1944 (A-files dating before May 1, 1951, would be handled al FOIA requests)

WORTHWHILE WEB SITES

From a multitude of sources

** FASHION-ERA

<http://www.fashion-era.com>

Discover the fashion dos and don'ts of your ancestor's time with this fun site. You may even get some tips for dating old family photos with clothing clues..

** PIONEER LIVING HISTORY MUSERM

<http://www.pioneer-arizona.com>

Take an online tour of this living history museum with restored and reconstructed 1800s-era buildings.

** MINNESOTA VETERANS GRAVE REGISTRATION INDEX

<http://peo;le.mnhs.org/vgri>

Search a free grave registration Index for military veterans in the Gopher State.

** LIST OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

<http://fwpubs.sparklist.com/t/1987582/3562957/623/0>

Look up secret societies, fraternal organizations and fraternal orders by abbreviation, motto or slogan in this in-depth list (use the control-F keyboard shortcut for quick searching).

** CARIBBEAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

<http://fwpubs.sparklist.com/t/1987582/3562957/623/0>

Find resources for Antigua, Antilles, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Tobago and others

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



R818_back



R818_front

WHICH DIGITAL CAMERA?

By Rick Hanson

While looking for the right digital camera, I quickly realized this process is a lot like house hunting. You must focus on a very few must-haves and then check that everything else is adequate. All digital cameras are at least adequate for snapshots of landscapes and people. But I wanted an affordable camera that could produce a good close-up image of a photograph or document. I quickly zeroed in on the HP Photosmart R817 & R818 cameras with their 5-times optical zoom. Most digital cameras have a 3-times zoom. But the better 5x zoom would allow me to stand further away from the document, \thus minimizing the my-shadow-is-in-the-way problem. Remember that the flash is off, and you will be relying solely on the ambient light.

The unfortunate consequence of this strategy is that you have to compromise on the other features and may be paying for features that you don't care about. One runner-up in my selection process was the fujifilm FinePix E900. For about the same price, it captures a 9Mb of pixels (the R818, 5.1 MB) and uses two AA batteries (NiCad or alkaline). One set of batteries can last for perhaps 400 shots. A review said it produces excellent images, even in low light. The bad news: lower resolution LCE screen which makes correct image focus difficult to determine, 4X optical zoom, easily damaged pop-up flash, having to press two buttons to manually focus, and only five shooting modes (no document mode for us genealogists).

If they could only combine the best aspects of the E900 with the R818, then we'd have a near perfect digital camera. But all one can do is select from that which is available. So I purchased an HP Photosmart R918 camera for \$350, L1810A Accessory Kit for \$55, and a 512 MB memory card for \$36. Those optional accessories gave me multiple batteries, a fast external charger and a better carrying case. Thus far I am reasonably happy with this camera. It does what I need it to do.

One final rule when selecting a digital camera, stop looking after you buy one. Otherwise your .satisfaction will disappear after seeing a cheaper better camera.

This article is the second of a four-part series. The other three topics consist of:

1. Digital Photography for Genealogy—Why Bother?
3. Digital Photography for Genealogy - Using an HP R818 Camera
4. Digital Photography for Genealogy - Without a Computer.

They will appear in Subsequent newsletters. But if you just can't stand the suspense, contact the Editor, Charles Woolsey, and he will e-mail a copy of the complete series to you.

Local Library Websites

Don't overlook the library website in the location of your ancestor. Many library websites have a nice genealogy section. Also they can inform you what is available at that location before you travel there and can thus save you time. Such as in Sacramento and Marysville California you would find that they have films for newspapers dating back many years. These could be sources of Obituaries, Weddings and other special events that included your ancestors. Some like Marysville are beginning to put them on line (they have 1958 -59) and you can access them by putting a name into the system and it will come up with articles with that name. Also there are some indexes available at that library. All this can be found out from their online catalog before you make the trip. That way you will be prepared to make your trip really count.

Life in the 1500's

By Barry Galloway

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof, when it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying. Its raining cats and dogs.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence that became the threshold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. (The same as in the early days of this country when they built log cabins with fireplaces for cooking and heat.) Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter, Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell: thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a ...dead ringer.

Now that's the truth, whoever said history was boring.

WOOLSEY'S QUICK TIP

Include Full Locations with Data

When posting to a message board or sending information to someone, please remember to include the state, and country if applicable. I received information with the place name stated as Jefferson Co. only and no state listed. There are 30 states with Jefferson Counties.

It also said that great-great-grandparents were married in Little Rock. Again there was no state, so people would assume it was Little Rock, Arkansas. When in truth it turned out to be Missouri, where three counties had towns by that name in the nineteenth century.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on the 21 st, be sure to bring your dish so we can all share the food and the fellowship. It is a time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. I have enjoyed being your editor this last year it has been a rewarding experience and I hold all of you in a special place in my heart.

Editor, Charles H. Woolsey

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