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Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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“Re-do Your Genealogy Research?”

Have you ever considered starting over and re-doing all your genealogical research? Getting rid of all your "old" research and starting over? No? You might consider at least re-doing some of your old research with all the skills you have acquired through the years. This presentation will look at several items that might make you think about how you have done your research in the past and what you might think about doing with some, if not all, of your previous research and some good practices going forward.

Hal Horrocks

is a professional genealogist, teacher, author, and lecturer and has been doing family research for 15 years. He is a member of several professional genealogical associations and is the current president of the Orange County California Genealogical Society (OCCGS) headquartered at the Huntington Beach Central Library. He has been lecturing to genealogical and other societies for the last 8 years on a range of subjects that include why people get involved in genealogy to conducting research in early England.

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Meetings: 2nd Sat .Sep-May Board Meeting — 1:00 PM Program — 2:00 PM
 Dues: \$20/person or \$25/family

Welcome New Member
 Barbara Sorrells



Preserved: A bitter-sweet
 story of ancestors . Page 4.



Here is a most interesting website (copied from Jean Hibben's newsletter.)
 It deals with the worst weather disasters in US.

<http://www.weather.com/news/news/worst-western-usa-disasters-20121011#/1>

**If, instead of a gem, or even a flower, we could cast
 the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a
 friend, that would be giving as the angels give.**

George MacDonald

FRANCE OPENED MASSIVE WWII ARCHIVES TO THE PUBLIC IN DECEMBER 2015

PARIS—Hundreds of thousands of files on members of the French resistance, communists and Jews hunted by the collaborationist Vichy government in France during the Second World War are now accessible to the public.

The French government has opened police and legal archives, allowing free access to documents from the regime that collaborated with the Nazi German occupiers between 1940 and 1944, as well as to investigative documents from the post-liberation government.

The order, which was signed on Dec. 24 and came into force Monday, will not only help the work of historians. It will also bring more citizens into the archives' lecture rooms to learn about what happened to their ancestors during the Second World War. For instance, families of people arrested under the Vichy regime as well as descendants of collaborationists prosecuted after the war will be able to consult police investigation documents and proceedings of military courts.

Second World War archives are kept in different places all around France, depending on their geographical and administrative origin. Many were already available to researchers, but they first had to file complex request forms and it could take months before they got an answer.

Now, anyone can come into a reading room, ask for a document and get it "within a minute or 15 minutes, just the time needed to go and get it from the shelves," says the chief of Paris police archives, Pascale Etiennette.

Marshal Philippe Petain's collaborationist government, which signed an armistice with the German occupiers in 1940, remains a sensitive issue in France. Some French people supported Petain's government while others engaged in the Resistance movement led by General Charles de Gaulle.

The decision by the French government to open the archives came in response to a call by French historians, including Gilles Morin, a Second World War specialist. "Many people who were doing research about their father or grandfather who had been deported for example, as we often see, were blocked by these administrative obstacles," he said.

Historians don't expect any major revelations, since the period has already been extensively studied, but hope to gain a more detailed understanding of events.

A Telluride Story by [Sharon Inglis](#) (contributed by President Pat Henny)

There are many stories that reside in the papers and photographs our forebears set aside to keep. These stories sometimes lack a key, but here is one that, thanks to a loving sister, retains its general outline. Kenneth Angus McLean was born in 1873 in a farmhouse on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, the youngest of nine children. As a young man, Kenny left the family farm to join his older sister Christine in Boston, where he would have a wider choice of occupations. He didn't last long in the confines of the city. Kenny, like so many others, decided to seek his fortune out west. He took out a \$1,000 life insurance policy, named his sister as beneficiary, and got on a west-bound train. Eventually, Kenny landed in Telluride, Colorado. This current-day celebrity ski and film town sits in a beautiful box canyon in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado's southwest. From 1898 to 1900, Kenny McLean earned a living as a miner.



Alice Pheasey and Kenneth McLean on their wedding day.

At some point Kenny became friends with Yorkshire native Fred Pheasey, with whom he ran a local saloon. He made friends easily when in town and had earned a reputation for being level headed, so he decided to try a career in law enforcement. There was certainly plenty of "enforcing" to be done in a town full of miners, gamblers, and cowboys, with ten times as many saloons as churches and an infamous red light district. Kenny was elected town constable, walking a beat in town or covering the mountain trails on a Palomino named Yellow Hammer, a loaded Colt 45 on his hip at all times. A columnist for the *Telluride Journal* wrote, "Kenny McLean is making about as good, if not better, [a] police officer [as] Telluride has ever had."

In 1901, Kenny and Fred's sister Alice were married. Kenny was 28; Alice was 20. Their daughter Thelma Jane was born a year later. Letters from Alice to her sister-in-law Christine in Boston described life in Telluride: stories of divisive mining strikes and catastrophic avalanches, how precocious Thelma was "such a Papa's girl," and news of another baby on the way. (Frederick Nicholas McLean arrived in 1904.) This second pregnancy was very hard on Alice, who was eventually diagnosed with Bright's disease, a kidney ailment now known as chronic nephritis. The disease caused hypertension and edema, and was beginning to affect Alice's eyesight. Alice's letters also mentioned stomach trouble Kenny had been having off and on; she attributed it to the disruption of his being assigned to the overnight shift. All the while, Kenny was advancing quickly through the ranks of Telluride's police force, happily moving from night marshal to city marshal, a day job. When he was elected Chief of Police in early 1905, he sent Christine two photographs taken to commemorate his achievement. In his letter he told her to "take the one you like best." Christine must have been very proud of her little brother: she kept them both. On 5 October 1905, the local paper ran a story about a surprise party that Kenny threw for Alice's twenty-fourth birthday. No one could have guessed that, two weeks later, Kenny McLean would be dead.



Kenny as Town Constable

All the while, Kenny was advancing quickly through the ranks of Telluride's police force, happily moving from night marshal to city marshal, a day job. When he was elected Chief of Police in early 1905, he sent Christine two photographs taken to commemorate his achievement. In his letter he told her to "take the one you like best." Christine must have been very proud of her little brother: she kept them both. On 5 October 1905, the local paper ran a story about a surprise party that Kenny threw for Alice's twenty-fourth birthday. No one could have guessed that, two weeks later, Kenny McLean would be dead.

On 18 October, Kenny arrived home from work, telling Alice that when he had dismounted from his horse earlier in the day, he might have "broke something inwardly." He asked Alice to "fix the lounge by the stove" and summon the doctor. By the next afternoon, it was evident that Kenny was not going to recover. Although he was in excruciating pain, he remained conscious till the end, shaking hands with close friends who came to say good-bye and kissing Alice right before he died. Kenny was thirty-three years old. When his obituary appeared the next week, Alice cut it out and mailed it to Christine with a penciled note at the bottom: "Will write when I am more able." An autopsy revealed that Kenny died of a perforated gastric ulcer and acute peritonitis.

A few weeks later, Christine received a tear-stained letter from Alice detailing the events leading up to Kenny's death. In subsequent letters, Alice wrote of her struggles to do the washing and other household chores in her weakened state and worried that she would not be able to care for the children if the Bright's disease continued to erode her vision. Alice's mother had died and Fred Pheasey had moved his family to Alaska; Alice was alone in Telluride. Christine had never married, so had only to ask her sympathetic employer for leave so she could go to Alice. By the time Christine arrived, Alice's health had deteriorated further. In April 1906, Alice McLean passed away at the age of 25, leaving three-and-a-half-year-old Thelma and 18-month-old Freddy orphaned. The local paper lamented, "it seemed as if the light of her life went out with his." Perhaps Alice died of a broken heart.

She asked Christine to raise her children and that she be buried in her wedding gown. Christine McLean was a strong, intelligent woman in her late 40s. She worked as a seamstress for a wealthy family who lived on Mount Vernon Street in Boston. Christine seemed unafraid of taking on the rearing of two children alone. She paid for a gravestone to be placed in Lone Tree Cemetery (it never appeared), packed up Thelma and Freddy's belongings, and boarded a train back east. Soon Thelma and Freddy would begin a new, very different life in the servants' quarters of a mansion on Beacon Hill. The first photo of the children in their new home shows them sitting on a step together on 4 July 1906, Thelma holding a small American flag

Christine knew that the children would benefit from any connection they could have to their parents. In addition to their clothing and favorite toys and books, she made a point of bringing a few pieces of the family's china and glassware, jewelry, photos, and personal mementos with her from Telluride. Among the items were Alice's calling cards, still in their engraved case, and a book in which Alice and Kenny recorded family births and deaths. Most importantly, Christine lovingly preserved the letters she received from her brother and his wife so the children could read them and hear their parents' voices once again.



Kenny's sister Christine

It is because of Christine McLean's foresight that I am able to tell the story of **Kenny and Alice McLean, my great-grandparents.** Thelma and Fred's Aunt Christine raised them with religion and high expectations. The religion stuck with my grandmother Thelma, but not so much with my great-uncle Fred, who was a bit of a rabble-rouser. Thelma went on to have four children of her own. Fred, who couldn't swim, sailed the world on export liners and cruise ships, rising to the rank of Captain. He married four times to three women, but never became a father. Instead, he doted on his nephew and three nieces. I believe Thelma and Fred thought of their parents every day of their lives. My grandmother once told me that she never feared death because she knew it meant she would be reunited with her parents at long last.

A Little Reminder Note about Censuses.

All censuses taken since 1790 are tabulated and organized by the counties within each state or territory. By federal precedence, the county is the basic unit of jurisdiction for census demographics. Alaska is the only state without counties; therefore, judicial districts are used as jurisdictions for the censuses taken there. In Louisiana, the term "parish" is used in the same way as "county" in other states. Even in the New England states--where a town may have more importance than a county as a genealogical resource--censuses are organized by county.

Between 1790 and 2000, 138 counties reported in the censuses have been re-named or abolished and subsequently absorbed into other counties. Through 1920, 44 cities in Virginia were independent of any county.

Genealogists learn early the importance of the county as a jurisdiction when using the U.S. federal censuses because one needs to know the county before one can find a resident in a certain locale. Finding the right county is a big step in genealogical research, not only because of census records but also because of the many other records specific to a certain county or locality. (advice from William Dollarhide notes)





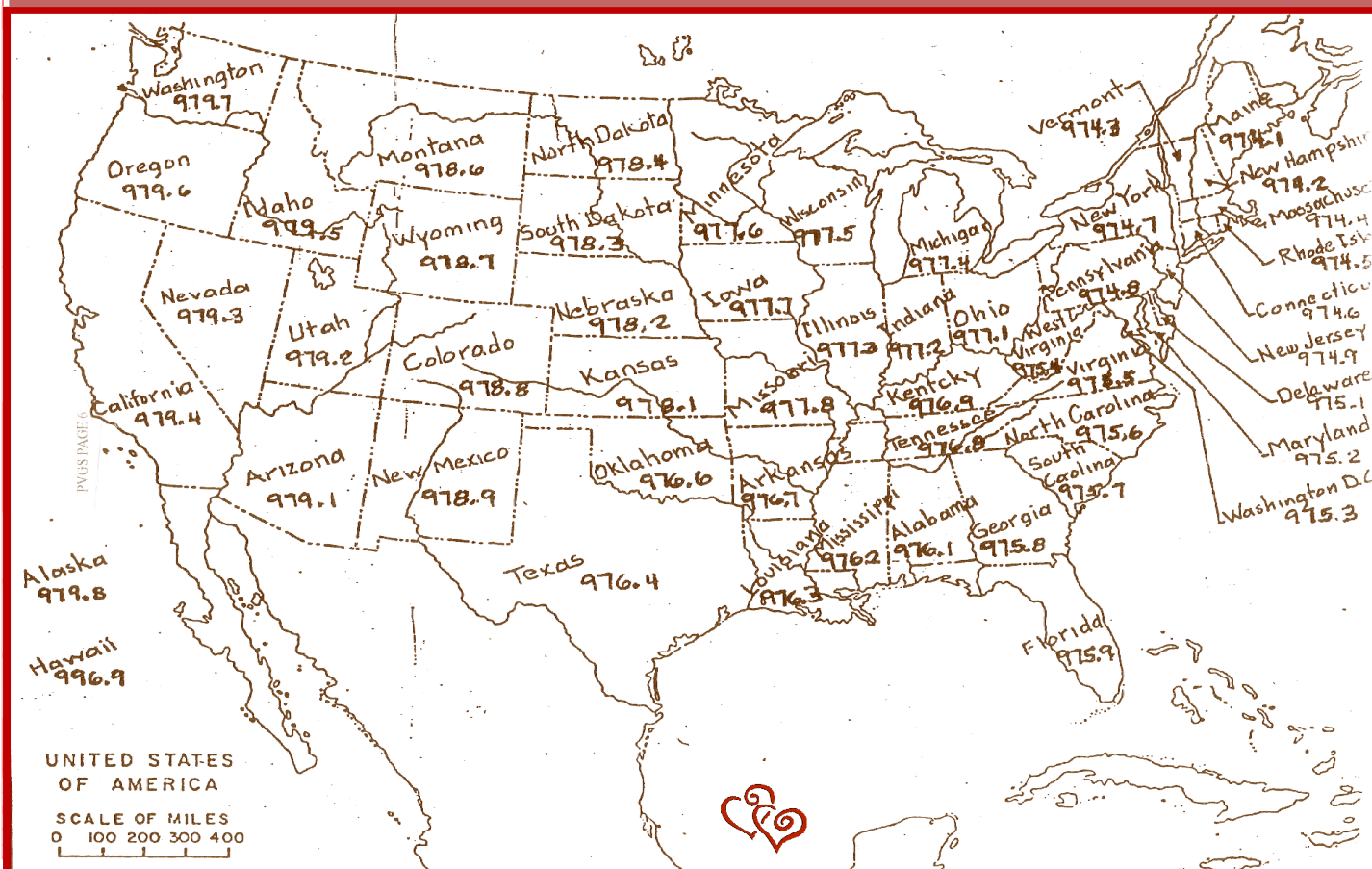
JAMBOREE “Giving to the Future by Preserving the Past”

The Southern California Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the 47th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree. The conference will be held at the Los Angeles Marriot in Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA Friday through Sunday, June 3-5, 2016.

Registration is **now open** and available on the [Jamboree website](#). You can either complete your registration through the [online shopping cart](#) or download the [registration form](#) and mail it in. Early Bird registration prices are in effect through April 23, 2016. [Please note - banquets and workshops tend to go fast. The best advice we can offer - register online and early!] **Jamboree 2016** offers an exceptional educational opportunity for family historians and genealogists of all experience levels. The theme for Jamboree 2016 is "Giving to the Future by Preserving the Past."

We welcome all attendees who are interested in genealogy and preserving the past for future generations. Our heritage focus will be on German, Eastern European, and African-American research. Topics covered will include research methods, analysis and problem solving, organization techniques, family history writing, the use of technology, and more.

Pomona Public Library has an excellent collection of “genealogical” books. Useful for any library is a chart of Dewey decimal numbers for states you may want to examine. Here is a helpful map to take with you on your next genealogical foray.



Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

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Pomona Public Library is at 625 S. Garey Ave (corner Garey and 7th Streets, just south of Mission). 909 620-2043. Parking is free in the lot and on 7th - both sides.

PVGS meets at the Pomona Public Library on the Second Saturday of each month—September-May in the public Conference Room.

Our Board Meetings are held at 1:00 pm. Our General Meetings and Programs are from 2:00—4:00pm.

