

# SAVING YOUR RECENT FAMILY HISTORY BEFORE IT GETS LOST, DESTROYED OR FORGOTTEN

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This presentation and all document images can be found on the Edgewood, NM Family Search Center Website.

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Edgewood New Mexico Family Search Center](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Edgewood_New_Mexico_Family_Search_Center)

There are three main parts to a family story.

The “BONES” of your story are formed by the Genealogical information showing individual family members and important events. A few examples are Birth and Death Certificates, Marriage and Cemetery records, court and newspaper accounts, and land records.

The “FLESH AND BLOOD” are formed over the skeleton by the SOURCES. These are the documents from which we gather sources of life events, business dealings, land and livestock sales or purchases and other records of an individual’s life activities.

These represent ‘PROOFS’ that support the body of information about your relatives. The ‘CLOTHING’ that dresses the body is sewn from the memories of our living relatives, historical records and the world and local events that formed the daily experience of your family.

You cannot write any of your family stories without these three elements. Many of the things we need for our story are being lost very rapidly because of the changes which have occurred in the last 100 years. From the founding of America in 1776 through about the beginning of World War I the major activities in most of the world revolved around agriculture.

The Industrial Revolution (IR), kick started the rapid technical advances that continue today. Even after the start of the IR, most people moved at the speed of an ox, horse, or by foot. The stagecoach and “Iron Horse” added an element of speed, but most of life was conducted in rural areas. Families carved farms and plantations out of the wilderness areas.

Families had many children for two reasons. First was the fact that survival of the young was not assured, and second a large family was needed to work the land and assist the mother with raising the younger children and working the home.

Studies of Census Records from the 19<sup>th</sup> century indicate that many children remained on the farm. When a son was old enough the family would give part of the land to them, or help them

buy a tract near the family farm. Families and communities supported one another to plant and harvest crops.

A trip into town for supplies could involve a multi-day adventure for children and adults. The general store was the source of almost everything a family needed. Larger towns might have “specialty stores” dealing with millinery, tailoring, or leather goods like boots and saddles.

Technology has advanced so rapidly in the past 100 years that the Card Tabulation (now evolved into Information Technology), and early computer systems that I learned about in 1963 are not mentioned by instructors in 2023 Intro to Technology 101 classes. I spoke to some recent “Geek Squad” graduates who had never seen an IBM Tabulation Card, Magnetic Tape, removable disk pack or “Floppy”.

I was on the cutting edge of technology my entire working life. I saw the 1401 computer at the U of Arizona in 1953. While working in the World Trade Center in 1970 two of the programmers from India ask if I had any old 1401 manuals. The government of India had just purchased 1401 computers from IBM and needed manuals.

While in New York City I also helped convert Lord Jeff Knitting Mills from UNIVAC 90 column tabulating equipment with mechanical accounting equipment counting in 12ths rather than 10ths to an IBM computer with 80 column cards and tape drives. We wrote programs in the COBOL language which had to be “compiled” into a form the computer could process. We had to load the compiler card deck each time we changed a program.

I worked with my father and others developing early varieties of PIMA and Acala cotton. While working for Anderson Clayton, once the largest cotton company in the world, I helped the USDA Classing offices move from hand stamped to IBM punched classing cards. Each bale of cotton has a unique bale number and Government grad or class. I also revised bale tags to use Bar Codes for tracking products, and supplying information to gins in Arizona, California and Australia.

Shortly after the IBM PC came out my class project for University of Phoenix was to design, mail, and analyze a survey to measure interest by growers and ginners across the United States about receiving bale classing information using floppy disks. This was a project for the National Cotton Council and resulted in the use of floppy disks instead of punched class cards.

All of the contributions I mention above are obsolete, replaced by advances in technology and equipment. I have many museum quality artifacts in my collection. This class will cover just how fragile our Family Stories are becoming.

We often speak of the genealogy and source documentation required to do the important Temple work we must perform to assist those who have crossed the Vaile. We are rapidly losing the knowledge and documents that record that story. Schools are not teaching cursive, the US

Postal Service is removing postmarks, and requiring bulk mailers to bar-code items so they can be processed by new USPS sorting equipment.

The physical documents, letters, cards, business correspondence, valentines and air mail are parts of history. I am 78 years old. Over ½ of my class of '68 have passed the Vaile, and many young persons today question the validity of events from my early life. Hand painted advertisements; artwork on magazine covers, embossed and colorized postcards "Love Letters" and V-Mail are gone.

These documents, along with the written stories and memories of our living relatives are all we have to "Sew" the Clothing that will dress each person in our family story.

A few weeks ago I spoke with a family near me about an old wooden box car that sits on their property. They said something like "oh, it's just some junk magazines from the 30's". I gave them my number, but they never let me look in the boxcar.

Last week a crew started tearing down some structures, and let me look in that car. Fortunately the Foreman had the same love of history and "old stuff" that we do, and let Charliene and I go through things. The next day we arrived to find that everything on the property was being torn down. We never looked in the house because they were tearing it down with a backhoe.

The Foreman allowed us to rescue anything of value, and we decided to treat this situation like a lost relative that we never knew, and see what we could learn of the family's story before everything went to the dump. This family had no interest in the rich history and contributions their family made to Torrance County and New Mexico.

I have only done a little analysis, but the history I have found is fascinating and I hope this presentation will show you the importance of saving the physical and mental records of our living relatives, your family's story, before it goes to the dump or the grave.

This family lived in the town of Buford, just north of Moriarty. The Crossley family had a Standard Oil Gasoline Station and a Motor Court, along with cattle and sheep operations in southern New Mexico. The Motel 6 now occupies that location. Only one building, now a Cannabis store remains.

Writing your family story is like doing your genealogy, it can be as simple or extensive as you choose. The deeper you dig, the more you can tell the story of each relative, dress them in the clothing and experiences of their times and learn some history along the way.

I have done a little research on the Crossley family and found that they were prominent in important events that occurred in the East Valley and across New Mexico. These are some of the documents and stories my wife and I were able to recover as the buildings were being destroyed around us to learn some of their story.

The image file is organized by the following groupings. The names start with: "Add" Advertising, "Article" Articles, "Bank" Banking related, "Book" Book Covers, "Card" Cards, "Check" Checks, "Cover" Magazine Covers, "Doc" Documents, "Letter" Letters and envelopes, "Member" Membership Cards, "ORT" Order Railroad Telegraphers, "Story" Stores and Related, "WW" World War II, "Yearbook Order.

Advertisements – Hand painted or Colorized B&W Photos. Brands we have today

1. Bayer Aspirin, Dr. House Call
2. Post Toasties Cornflakes With Mickey, Cartoon, Farm Articles
3. Corona Zephyr Typewriter for Transatlantic Clipper, Cartoon
4. Chevrolet Sedan under \$700.00 1930s
5. Singer Woman's Patterns 1936
6. McCall's Evening Frock Pattern
7. Classified Ads and Farm Related Ads
8. Low Cost FHA Finance- 10, 15, & 20 Year Loans
9. Sani-Flush, Card Sales, and "Success" ads. Index of Advertisers 1939
10. Livestock Product Ads
11. McCall's "Xmas" Special Subscription 2 Years for \$1.50 Total, Story
12. Missing
13. Tourist Directory Ads
14. Niblets Corn Artist's Ad
15. Missing
16. Ralston Cereal Ad
17. Rinso Dish & Laundry Soap
18. Toastmaster Toaster and Waffle Iron 1940
19. Jeep Ad
20. Swift's Premium Ham Ad
21. Taylor Made Bed Offer
22. National Recovery Act, Ads & Interesting Articles

Articles – Newspaper & Radio, No TV, Internet, Web, Main Housewife's & Farm Source. 12 Million, 40% of households had a radio on 1930 Census, 28 Million by 1939.

1. Bridge Luncheon Menu
2. Short Farm Articles
3. To 8. Missing
9. Cotton Forecast
10. Cutting the Milk Crop
11. Keepers of the Front Yard
12. Cotton Articles, Justin Boot Ad, Others
13. Mother of Lincoln

Bank Documents – Returned Checks and Statement, Cancellations, Bank by Mail

1. Deposit Slip
2. Perforated Canceled Check
3. Old Style Bank Statement With Checks Returned
4. Bank Statement, Bank by Mail 1937
5. Breeder Inspection Report
6. Breeder Inspection Report, Back

Books – Names, Education, Recipes, History, Literature

1. 1976 Almanac
2. National Baking School Lesson
3. Brown's Tourist Directory
4. 1930 Christmas Recipes
5. Dwight L Moody 1898 Revival Child Stories
6. Favorite Cocoa and Chocolate Recipes
7. History of Torrance County 1959
8. Brown Highway List
9. Win a Car Contest
10. Service Manuals

Cards – To and From Address, Postmark, Names, Message, Special Occasion

0. Front of card
1. Back of Card
2. Embossed Card
3. Hand Painted
4. Postcard        Front
5. Anniversary Card 1970s
6. Envelope
7. Card Front
8. 1930 Card
9. Hand Painted
10. Hand Painted

Checks – Bank Names and Locations, No MICR (Magnetic Ink on bottom of Checks)

2. Check Face
3. Check Back
4. Check Face
5. \$50.00 Un-cashed check, now \$600.00+
6. Business Check Book Cover with Postage, No Wrapper

## Magazine Covers - Note Address Labels, Issue and subscription rates, Painted Cover Illustrations

1. National Farm Journal 1934, Label
2. Cappers Farmer 1935
3. Delineator Feb 1936
4. Missing
5. Delineator Oct 1936
6. Ladies' Home Journal 1939, 10 Cents
7. Mc Call's Jan 1935, 10 Cents, 15 Cents in Canada
8. The Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist, Aug 1931
9. Saturday Evening Post, 1939, 5 Cents

## Documents

1. Equipment Purchase Inquiry – Shoe Repair Equip.
2. Estancia Drug Calendar – Phone No.
3. Moriarty Trading Receipt – Business and Buyer Name
4. Ambulance Bill – Tucson Medical Center
5. 1960 Ambulance Bill – Exter Mortuary, ABQ
6. 1948 Galles Motor Service Receipt – Business, Customer Name, Bill Amt.
7. Fort Worth to Moriarty Greyhound ID Check
8. Real Estate Abstract Bill – Land Description, Gov. Regulations
9. 1942 Stock Raising Report – Name, age, occupation etc.
10. Same as No. 9 – More Information
11. State Land Office Receipt – Lease Payment, Names, Horse List
12. 1952 Land Purchase – Names, Description, Document Stamps
13. Back of 1915 Notarized Land Receipt, Torrance County
14. Letterhead, Discontinued Railroad – Willard Moriarty area.

The **New Mexico Central Railroad** was formed in 1908 from the consolidation of the [Santa Fe Central Railway](#) and the [Albuquerque Eastern Railway Co.](#), to operate the 116 miles of track between [Torrance](#) and [Santa Fe, New Mexico](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> That line, reorganized in 1918 as the **New Mexico Central Railway**, was sold to the [Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad](#) in 1926.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The New Mexico Central remained the nominal owner of the Santa Fe-leased line while the Santa Fe proceeded to abandon operation of the trackage in pieces, ending in 1972 with abandonment from [Willard](#) to Calvert ([Moriarty](#)), New Mexico.

15. 1932 NM State Corp. Commission Cover Letter – Closing of RR Crossing
16. 1938 Holmes Motor Co. Receipt – 1000 Mile Inspection
17. Signature Loan Receipt
18. 1937 Temporary Driving License
19. Wells Fargo Shipping List – Railroad
20. 1914 Receipt for Work Done – Names, Reason, Other

#### Letters -

2. 1938 NY World's Fair Letter – Rt. 66 Motor Court Listing
3. 1932 Envelope, Post Mark, Names
4. 1944 Attorney Grazing Letter
5. 1953 QE II Coronation
6. 1953 QE II Envelope
7. 1943 Land Use Inquiry
8. Death Letter
9. Sheet of Names – Torrance Co. Extension Agent
10. Foreign Letter Envelope –US, Air Mail, Stamp, Date
11. Another Example of No. 9 – Return Address
12. Another Example
13. Cost Calculation for Book
14. Letter Stating Lease Prepared – Names, What Lease?
15. 1942 Senator Hatch Lease Offer – Clovis, NM
16. Missing
17. 1938 Attorney envelope
18. 1942 USDA Bean Sample Enquiry – JL Crossley
19. 1938 Motor Court Correspondence NY World's Fair
20. International Air Mail Letter – Thin Paper

#### Membership Cards

1. Montezuma Lodge 1, AFA Masons, NM
2. 1938 Red Cross Card
3. Missing
4. Order of Railroad Telegraphers – Passwords on Back, 1938 NCSP Card
5. Back of ORT Card, 1929 Masonic Dues Card, Family Problem Letter

#### ORT -The Order of Railroad Telegraphers

ORT Advertisements  
ORT 1931 Back Cover  
ORT 1931 Cover  
ORT 1936 Benefits Paid List  
ORT 1936 Cover – Note Cartoon  
Carrlson Standard Station and Motor Court Photo  
E. Shearer 1942  
Unknown Pictures and Names

## Stories

1. Joseph P Kennedy
2. No Trouble at All
3. Yesterday's Heroes
4. Dixie Football 1939 Helmets
5. Dixie Football P. 2
6. Cutting the Milk Crop
7. Mother of Lincoln

WW II V-mail 1

WWII V-mail 2

Yearbook Discount

Yearbook IBM Card

Yearbook Letter 1960 Book

Yearbook Return Envelope