

Way We Were  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
Sarah Hill, Research Librarian  
Weaving a history of Park City

As Research Librarian at the Park City Museum I have had the unique opportunity to learn about major historical events of the area as well as smaller ones—what some might call inconsequential “bits and pieces”. Behind the mining moguls and the Silver Queens were the everyday workers and immigrants who powered this small town. Without the hard work of those men and women Park City may have never survived to achieve the success we see today. Part of my job is to assist the descendants of those who created this town. After receiving a research request from a patron, I get to map their family history and learn another piece of the Park City tale.

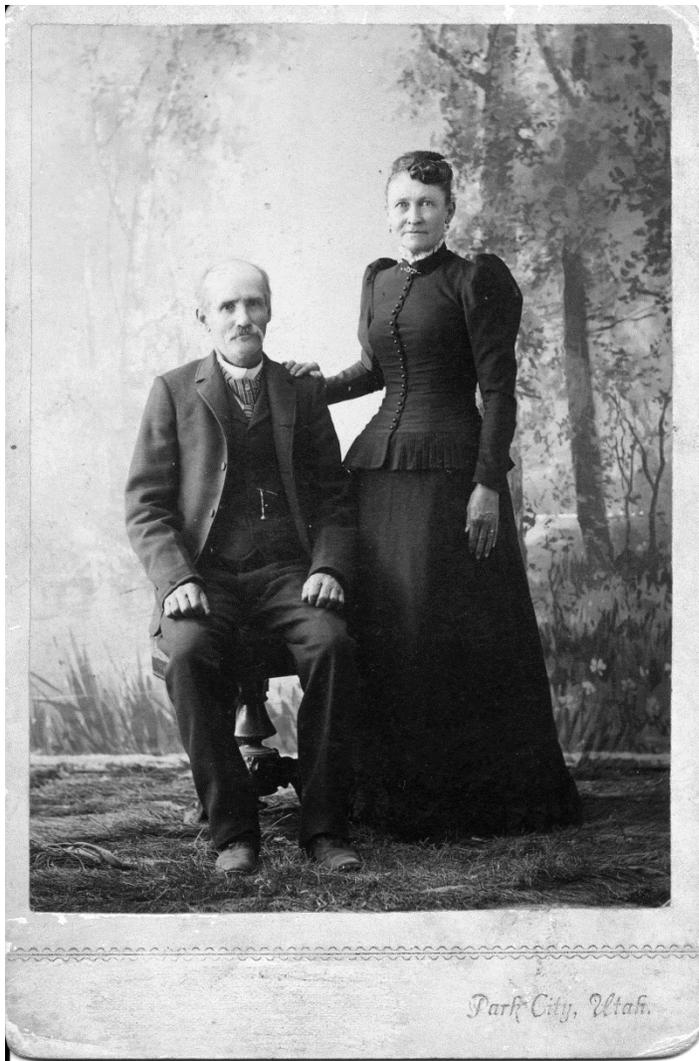
Recently, I received an email from a gentleman in England looking to track down an ancestor named Henry Cunnington who came with his family to Park City in the late 1800s. With this snippet of information—a name and a rough year, I was able to track down enough information about the Cunnington family to know their significance in Park City. Some would say that going through page after page of documents makes genealogy daunting, but I enjoy the hunt as much as an old-school detective!

The wonderful resources available to “armchair historians” have made research less intimidating. For example, you can use the ever-helpful [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) or even the Utah Digital Newspaper which can be found at [digitalnewspapers.org](http://digitalnewspapers.org). Granted, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) does cost money, it is available at the research library for anyone wanting to do research.

With just the name “Henry Cunnington” I was able to track down his immigration, census, and marriage records as well as some related *Park Record* articles. Unlike most immigrants in the mid-1800s seeking work and heading to America on their own, Henry traveled with his entire family. At the age of 11 in 1847, they left Liverpool, England on a ship named Thames bound for New Orleans, Louisiana. Henry doesn’t show up again until 1860 in Camp Floyd, Utah, in his marriage record to an Annie Grimmett. By 1862 the two are living in Sacramento, California, but relocate not long after the Great Flood of ’62. They became official residents of Park City in 1874.

Henry worked as a prospector and miner, finding “assays of 30 odd ounces of silver...encountering the continuation of the Woodside bonanza vein,” in the spring of 1889. He worked hard to provide a healthy and happy life for his family. Henry passed away July 3, 1896 and was buried at the historic Glenwood Cemetery in Park City. Annie remained in Park City for the rest of her life, and was even named the Oldest Park City Resident in 1924. She passed away two years later on April 1, 1926 at the age of 82.

If you are interested in doing your own genealogical research or on any topic Park City related please contact me at the Park City Museum, 435-649-7457.



Image#: Digi.4.105

Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum, Larremore Digital Image

Caption: Henry and Annie Cunningham pose for a photograph at a local Park City establishment.

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