LIFE’S A ROLLER COASTER.
ENJOY THE RIDE at LAKESIDE!

Have you ever gone to Lakeside Amusement Park? I went there on my Senior Trip over fifty years ago. What do you remember about it? (Answers on page 6.)

1. What was Lakeside’s original name?
2. What year did Lakeside open?
3. What prominent Denverite developed the idea of Lakeside? (Hint: Brewer.)
4. What is the name of the lake adjacent to Lakeside? (Hint: The first name of Lakeside’s current owner.)
5. In what town is it?
6. Complete this phrase: The formal entrance on Sheridan is the landmark Tower of ______, which once had 16,000 individual light bulbs.
7. Name one of the two locomotives of the miniature steam train.
8. Name some of the rides at Lakeside.
9. Name the 3 roller coasters at Lakeside.
10. What happened to the Scenic Railway, the Glide and other attractions in 1911?
11. From the 1930s until 1988 what did Lakeside operate on its grounds? (Hint: The degrading track remains today.)
12. What was the name of the Funhouse’s animated Fat Lady mannequin?

For a great photographic visit and history of Lakeside Amusement Park, go to: http://temperamentalbroad.blogspot.com/2010/08/lakeside-amusement-park-history.html

For photos of Lakeside at the Denver Public Library, go to: http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm/search/collection/p15330coll22/p15330coll21/p15330coll14/searchterm/lakeside%20amusement%20park/field/all/ mode/all/conn/and/cosuppress/0

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Programs & Workshops

September 8, 2015  1 p.m.  
“Publishing Shorts” – Publishing Experiences by Darillyn Doss, member, Green Valley, AZ Genealogical Society, and Family Newsletters by Livie Grogan, member, Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society

Two avid genealogists share their tips and how to avoid some of the pitfalls of self-publishing.

September 15, 2015  1 p.m.  
“Legacy Stories” by Gordon Taylor, Assistant Director of the Littleton Family History Center, family man and experienced genealogist

Gordon will introduce LegacyStories.org, a free living history library that provides life story learning, recording, archiving and sharing to families, professionals and groups. Legacy Stories offers a variety of options to compose and record legacy stories including multi-media story pages, oral history slideshows and the ability to record powerful Pict-Oral Memories with Apple and Android mobile apps.

October 13, 2015  1 p.m.  
“Probate for the Genealogist” by Richard Kautt, Lawyer and Genealogist

Richard will cover modern and historical probate practices to provide background to genealogists in researching probate records.

October 20, 2015  9:30 a.m. Early Bird  
“Testate Records” by Kirk Patton, Attorney

1 p.m.  
“Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years” by Mary Taylor Young

Author Young tells a story that stretches from the dawn of time into the future. Journey back to witness the rise, fall, and rise again of mountains. Meet ancient people who built rock game drives still visible atop Trail Ridge, and Utes and Arapaho who left behind only their names for many Park features. Learn how a young man named Enos Mills became a passionate advocate for this mountain wonderland and devoted his life to preserving it as a national park.

November 10, 2015  1 p.m.  
“They Weren’t all Prostitutes and Gamblers” by Dr. Sandra F. Mather, PH.D, Professor Emerita, Author and Historian

We are privileged to learn about the lives of early Colorado women from a noted historian and author who is also the current president of the Summit Historical Society. Dr. Mather brings these female pioneers to life from her research in newspaper accounts, census records, photos and diaries. One diary in particular stood out to her – the diary of Anna Sadler Hamilton from the years 1885 and 1887.

November 17, 2015  9:30 a.m. Early Bird  
“Intestate Records” by Kirk Patton, Attorney

1 p.m.  
“Carriers of News and Knowledge: Post Office Records” by Julie Miller, CG, Professional Researcher, Lecturer and Author

Post Office Records are full of genealogical riches. Julie will discuss Post Office records, their contents, and how to access these underutilized records.

December 8, 2015  12 Noon  
Potluck Luncheon

1 p.m. “Ornaments with a History or Story” – A Sharing Experience
Finally, after some strange weather patterns during winter and spring, summer has finally arrived. The way things are going, it might be a good idea to take advantage of mild weather during early summer to peel away from the computer and enjoy the outdoors before the heat chases us all back indoors again.

It is no secret that I enjoy spending outdoor time in cemeteries. We are fortunate to have some dandy ones in the Denver area. My favorite is Riverside Cemetery, a National Historic Site. Check this web site for information and events: http://friendsofriversidecemetry.org/

You might recall a recent Columbine presentation by member and photographer, Steve Johnson, featuring his outstanding photos from Riverside Cemetery, a treasure trove of photo ops.

Another fun summer activity is to visit historic sites, museums, and mining towns. South Park City in Fairplay contains buildings from nearby Buckskin Gulch Mining District. Historic Leadville’s Boom Days celebration on Saturday, August 8 will take you back to Colorado’s glory days and adventure in the late 1800s.

This summer, Columbine will host a booth at Littleton’s Western Welcome Week on Saturday, August 15. It will be a fun day of visiting with genealogists among the food and craft booths and watching the parade. If you would like to help out by filling a time slot at the booth, contact Carol Johnson at carolj46@comcast.net

When the summer heats up, I will slip back into my cool basement office, for more writing and researching online. But wait, remember those New Year’s Resolutions in January? July is a good time to revisit them. Since mine involved DNA testing, I will be hovering around the mailbox, waiting for results.

Be safe and have fun this summer. Remember to return to Columbine for our first fall meeting on September 8. On September 15, we will look forward to hearing about your summer genealogical adventures and breakthroughs.

Joyce Lohse, CG&HS President
A Brief Exercise in Genealogical Research:  
My Beulah Blakley Rose  
By Carol Johnson, CGHS Member

This year I attended the Fairmount Cemetery Heritage Rose Sale on May 16th. To celebrate Fairmount’s 125th anniversary, the Fairmount Heritage Foundation and High Country Roses propagated new cuttings from roses never previously available. I purchased a Beulah Blakley mystery rose from historic Riverside Cemetery. How interesting to note that mystery roses are named after the person on the nearest tombstone!

On a Memorial Day visit to Riverside Cemetery I found Beulah Blakley’s tombstone in Block 20, Lot 212. It reads: “BEULAH V. ELDEST CHILD OF A.A. & OPHELIA L. BLAKLEY. BORN JUNE 24, 1881. DIED APRIL 15, 1890.” At the very bottom was written: “A voice we loved is stilled.” The rose bush named after her grows in front of her tombstone.

I want to learn more about Beulah Blakley and her family. Find A Grave includes her obituary from the Rocky Mountain News on 16 April 1890: “BUELAH (sic) V. BLAKLEY – Died – in Denver, Apr 15, daughter of A.A. and Ophelia Blakley, aged 8 years and 10 months. Funeral from residence of P.W. Blakley, 3545 Blake Street, 2 o-clock today. Friends invited.” It also includes the Riverside Cemetery record: “Blakeley, Berelah (sic) V., age 8, interred 4/16/1890” (Find A Grave Memorial #32766991).

In checking for other Blakleys buried at Riverside, I find that one of Beulah’s younger brothers is buried in the same block and plot: Harry E. Blakley was born on June 1, 1889, and died on June 4, 1890, only two months after Beulah. His identical tombstone reads: “Youngest child of A. A. & Ophelia L. Blakley” and “Our Baby Boy”. (Find A Grave Memorial #99597319) There are no death certificates for Beulah nor Harry because Denver did not provide them until after 1900.

The 7 June 1900 Federal Census for Denver, Arapahoe, Colorado, lists Alderson Blakley as the head of family living at 3344 West 44th Avenue. He is a married white male who is 41 years old, born in March, 1859, in Kansas. He has been married for 19 years. His occupation is Weighmaster (for the Union Pacific Railway). His wife, Ophelia, is 42 years old, born in October, 1857, in Kansas. She has had 7 children, all born in Colorado, and 5 are still living: Lilburne, a son born in Colorado in January, 1883; Arvell, a son born in Colorado in March, 1885; Dixie, a daughter born in Colorado in April, 1887; Ralph, a son born in Colorado in March, 1893, and an unnamed daughter (later named Bonnell Collins Blakley) born in Colorado in January, 1900 (Family History Library Microfilm: 1240118; Roll: 118; Enumeration District: 0048; Page: 7B; #68-74).

In spite of losing their oldest and youngest children in two months’ time in 1890, the Blakley family led a successful life in Denver. Beulah’s father served as Denver’s Excise Commissioner and President of the Fire and Police Board, when he faced some real political challenges during 1913-1914. He was honored by fraternal organizations for his honesty. Over 300 articles on various members of Beulah’s Blakley family appear in Denver newspapers, according to Genealogy Bank.

Now, when I see my Beulah Blakley rose in my backyard, I remember all about Beulah and her family in Denver. I can hardly wait for next year’s rose sale at Fairmount. Whose rose will I get then and what will be its genealogical story?
**CG&HS BOOK DONATIONS for Spring-Summer 2015**

By Marilyn Lyle and Julie Haynie, Public Acquisitions

**BEMIS LIBRARY:**


This volume contains information abstracted from the order books giving the story of what was happening at home during the Civil War. Slaves, slave owners, free people of "Colour" are documented.


This book includes name lists derived from tax lists, directories, military lists, land ownership maps, voter registrations, and other compilations. Includes index.


A compelling mystery that begins in Scotland Yard and involves the life of Richard III. The recent discovery of the remains of Richard III in a parking lot in Leicester, England provides renewed interest in this mysterious life and death. Recommended by James Jeffrey of DPL for all libraries and readers.


A Country-by-Country Atlas of European History 1700s-1900s. This is a compendium of old maps designed for genealogists which will help visualize ancestors' homelands and illustrate how borders and jurisdictions have changed.


This book is a book of fiction that begins in San Francisco with a bequest which is anonymous if certain family history questions are answered. The story utilizes many vital records in states across the USA as well as records in Europe. Should official family histories include family secrets?

**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY:**


This volume contains information abstracted from the order books giving the story of what was happening at home during the Civil War. Slaves, slave owners, free people of "Colour" are documented.


This book includes name lists derived from tax lists, directories, military lists, land ownership maps, voter registrations, and other compilations. Includes index.


This Handbook provides application forms issued by every state’s vital records office and includes addresses and available forms to help locate vital records from around the world. Phone numbers and addresses which are current are included as well as online URLs. Current fees are also noted.


First of a series that concentrates on 18th and early 19th centuries. Many of the emigrants listed are former soldiers who were encouraged to settle in Canada after the Napoleonic wars by the British Government. There should be military records for these men in the Public Record Office.


List of Irish emigrants based mainly on contemporary newspapers and archival sources in Canada and United States.


This volume is based mainly on archival sources in Canada, Denmark, England, Ireland, Scotland and the United States. With records from contemporary newspapers and journals from both
sides of the Atlantic. An alphabetized list of Irish emigrants arriving in the 1700-1800's.


Gives an alphabetized list of Irish emigrants arriving in the 1700-1800's.)

** (Part Eight was purchased and delivered to DPL earlier and the above volumes have been purchased to complete the series.)


This book is part of a series compiled to make German research easier. The purpose is to aid in identifying what church records to search if a specific town is known.


A compilation of 270,000 Welsh surnames found in parish and court records, ancient pedigrees and recent family histories.

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Answers to Lakeside Amusement Park Questionnaire

1. White City
2. 1908
3. Adolph Zang
4. Lake Rhoda, named after Rhoda Krasner
5. Lakeside. Denver’s strict liquor laws would have restricted alcohol sales.
6. Jewels
7. “Puffing Billy” or “Whistling Tom”
9. The Cyclone, Wild Chipmunk and Dragon
10. A fire destroyed them.
11. Lakeside Speedway
12. Laffing/Laughing Sal

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New DNA Group Formed

This year’s attendance at CG&HS meetings with programs about DNA has been outstanding. As a result, fifteen Columbine members met to discuss DNA on Tuesday, May 26th, at Anita Burbank-Jenkins’ home. Those in attendance filled out a survey. Information and answers from the survey were tabulated and recorded on a flip board provided by DJ Inman. From that, decisions were made as to what the group hopes to accomplish.

The next meeting of this new DNA group will be held at the downstairs conference room at Bemis Library from 10-12 noon on Thursday, July 9th. Deena Coutant will be in attendance.
THANK YOU FOR THE YUMMY COOKIES AND DONATIONS:

1-13 Kathleen Brigham, (donation) Julie McKemy, Anita Burbank-Jenkins

1-20 Barbara Biner, Chris Yaros, Carol Welch

2-10 Rita Elmore, Margaret Weiland, Marilyn Elrod

2-17 Sylvia Burnside, Sally Taylor, Jean Adams

3-10 Shirley Stertz, Livie Grogan,

3-17 Doris Livingston, Gail Beets, Leslie Modesitt

4-14 Karen Bialkowski, Carol & Steve Johnson, Jim Denison (Donation)

4-21 Peg Brady, Susan Hollis, Diane White

5-12 Allison Gibbens, Sylvia Burnside, Connie Strandberg

Mary McCarthy entertains with humorous excerpts on April 14th.

The CG&HS bookstore and audience on April 21st.

Alison Gibbens encourages gadgets for the May 19th meeting by introducing her own family gadget on May 12th.

Star Edwards plays Irish harp music on April 21st.
The White Plague, Woodmen and Great Uncle Hubert
By Carol Johnson, CG&HS Member

Almost a third of Coloradans came here in 1900 not to search for gold, but instead to chase a cure for their Tuberculosis, known as TB or consumption. It was a widespread and often fatal disease spread through the air by coughing, sneezing, talking and even singing. Flu-like symptoms included the “graveyard cough”, sputum tinged with blood, fever, night sweats and weight loss. TB was called the “White Plague” because of its sufferers’ anemic pallor. Such people were called tuberculars, consumptives, hackers and lungers. Public health officials waged unsuccessful battles to stop its spread, including posting warning signs, enacting laws prohibiting people from spitting in public, and demanding mandatory fumigation of places where consumptives had lived. Some tuberculars endured its stigma by wearing bells around their necks and being restricted to certain jobs and certain neighborhoods. By 1905 Eastern doctors recommended open-air treatment in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.

From 1909 until 1947 TB sufferers from around the country chased for a cure at the Modern Woodmen of America Sanatorium at Woodmen, Colorado, the largest TB facility in Colorado Springs. Covering 1,360 acres ten miles northwest of the city, Woodmen provided free treatment, in addition to free room, board, medicine, dental work, and laundry services to approximately twelve thousand of its members afflicted with tuberculosis. Its members paid ten cents in annual dues. Woodmen of America Life Insurance Company not only provided a death benefit to its members, but attempted to cure them of TB. Proud of its seventy percent recovery rate, Woodmen’s holistic approach involved rest, wholesome food, clean air, exercise and the right mental attitude. Dr. Charles Fox Gardiner invented what was called the Gardiner Sanatory tent/hut. Based on the design of a teepee, each of the sanatorium’s 180 tents allowed clean air to circulate from bottom to top constantly. In addition, Woodmen had a post office, a hospital, greenhouses, a men’s dormitory, staff homes, a dairy herd, chickens and pigs, a 200-acre garden, a farm and heating facilities. Colorado Springs, known at that time as “The City of Sunshine”, offered incentives to the company and became the health industry’s center of TB treatment because of its sunshine, clean air and outdoor recreational opportunities, like hiking, fishing, etc. In fact, Woodmen Road, which is still there today, was built specifically from the Colorado Springs train station directly to the sanatorium. Among tuberculars who came to Colorado Springs were writers Helen Hunt Jackson and Marshall Sprague, railroad and mine owner James J. Hagerman, Artus Van Briggle who founded Van Briggle Pottery, and my Great Uncle Hubert.

On June 6, 1931, Hubert Malchose mailed a postcard, showing Pikes Peak from Platte Avenue and postmarked from Woodmen, Colorado, to his seven-year-old daughter at home in North Dakota, in which he wrote: “Here is a lot of snow and nice big hills to slide down on. Wouldn’t you like it here?... Love from Daddy.”

Next, on October 6, 1931, he wrote a letter, postmarked from Woodmen, Colorado, to his father-in-law in North Dakota, explaining the consumptive’s regimen: “They say a lot of trouble makes one tough so there ought to be a lot of tough people around now. It seems like there is trouble everywhere.

I sure am lucky in having so many that are willing to take my homeless flock under their wing. Maybe I can return the favor some day. Anyway I hope so.

It took me just five months to get down and be real lazy. Have now gotten so I can go through the day without a worry or care. I now can avoid doing anything that will excite or tire me and hope to get rid of my cough by Xmas. Will get my 6 month exam next week although I think I have just turned the corner. Am getting pretty well used to my teeth although when I eat bacon, pieces get under my lower plate & feel like rocks. Gained two pounds last week which I believe is due to my being able to chew my food.

Have not heard from Annie for 3 days so figure she is busy packing & moving. This makes nine times she has moved since we were married in 1923. They say to move three times is as bad as once burnt out so we have burnt out 3 times.

(Monday night) Expected to finish this last night but found I had a temp. of 100.2/5 at 7:00 so stayed in bed. Stayed in bed most all day today and still feel tough. Have the grippe or flu. Temp is down today tho which helps. Will write more next time. Hug.”

On Christmas night, 1931, Hubert wrote a letter from Arizona to a sister in Minnesota, in which he explained his future plans as an optimistic lunger: “…I have a nice tourist cabin modern, for $3.00 a week & expect to stay here for 2 weeks to get lined up completely before hitting the trail among the cactus and sage...

Left Prescott (AZ) at 6:00 P.M. & got here at 11:00 P.M. last night & slept till 11:00 A.M. today. Had a light dinner, bought 4 street car chips & located this cabin. Had a real good supper for 35cents, which would cost at least a dollar in Prescott. Most of the stores were closed today so I couldn’t stock up but bought 6 grapefruit for 10 cents, a bottle of milk for 5 cents (think of it), and some sugar & tea & with cookies & doughnuts sent me by Annie I’m all set for breakfast.

Seen nice green grass, Palm trees & orange trees with oranges on today. The sun was real warm and I could feel I had on woolen underwear. After sunset the air got chilly & my little coal fire feels fine. Met a Woodmen patient (who was there when I was) on the street this P.M. & we had a great visit. He is about 50 years old and in about the same condition I am but he sticks to hotels. He had been to El Paso but said it was too cold there & now he doesn’t like it here. He is afraid to go out & rough it so I can’t waste any time on him. Hotel life would drive me crazy in a week.

If I don’t hear from the man at Pequot, Minn. within the next 10 days I’ll plan to go alone. It will take a full week to get stocked up to settle in the desert. All I will need to watch for is water & wood. Neither one very plentiful in the desert around...
here…Next week I’m going out to the orange groves & pick some oranges. Maybe I can get them for 10 cents a doz. if I pick them myself. I can stock up for a month that way.

There are four flies flying around the cabin but are so sociable I won’t kill them until later…”

Great Uncle Hubert’s obituary on November 20, 1932, when he was forty-five years old, reads: “…he had been in poor health for some time making his home in Sabin (MN). Last winter he spent in Arizona, returning to Sabin early in the spring. The latter part of July he entered Sand Beach Sanatorium (in Lake Park, MN) and seemed to be improving, but death caused by external (sic) hemorrhages from a lingering illness claimed him early Saturday morning… Besides his wife, he leaves five children, Kenneth, Hubert, Elaine, Jack and Jessie…he was a member of Modern Woodmen of America."

In spite of the sanatoriums’ so-called cures, death from TB was only delayed. At that time approximately half of TB sufferers died within five years. In the 1940s the development of antibiotics, like streptomycin, became an effective treatment. Thus, by 1950, sanatoriums, such as the Modern Woodmen of America Sanatorium, were no longer needed and closed. Over two hundred of the Gardiner tents at Woodmen were sold for around $25 each to Colorado Springs residents who used them as tool sheds and kids’ playhouses, some of which still exist in backyards there today.

Penrose Hospital has one in its original state with its hospital bed and furnishings at the Margery Reed Memorial Park at Cascade Avenue and Jackson Street (See Photo). A Woodmen Sanatorium hut is at Mount St. Francis, located at 7665 Assisi Heights. Rock Ledge Ranch at 3202 Chambers Way converted a hut into a visitor’s center, and two huts used today as storage sheds can be found on the main street in Manitou Springs. Also, many houses on the Old North End of Colorado Springs have large sleeping porches and may have been used originally as boarding houses for people with TB to breathe fresh air. Several of Colorado Springs’ sanatoriums evolved into hospitals and medical facilities: Glockner Tuberculosis Sanatorium became Penrose Hospital; another sanatorium became St. Francis Hospital; eventually Penrose and St. Francis hospitals merged; Cragmor Sanatorium is now part of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; Beth-El Hospital and National Deaconess Sanitarium became Memorial Hospital; Union Printers Home and Modern Woodmen Tuberculosis Sanatorium, now Mount Saint Francis, still exist today as skilled nursing care centers; Montcalm Sanitarium became Miramont Castle, which is now a museum, and National Methodist Sanatorium is now part of the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Today in 2015 Tuberculosis still exists as a fatal disease. It is thought that one-third of the world’s population has been infected with the White Plague, which has taken the lives of an estimated billion people in the past two hundred years, among them my Great Uncle Hubert. On the positive side, though, many of TB’s sufferers and their families remained in Colorado Springs and other Colorado cities to contribute to our state’s history, and many of our state’s current medical facilities owe their beginnings to those who chased the cure here.
Bits & Pieces

A hilarious Aussie spoof of Who Do You Think You Are? has become popular on YouTube. Created by The Checkout, an Australian television program, Who Do They Think They Are? pokes fun at the Who Do You Think You Are? television program, at Ancestry.com, the Mormon Church, DNA, and even a quick jab at trying to find genealogy information on Google. It also delivers a serious message about the proper methods of searching one’s family tree. You can view this humorous video at https://youtu.be/C61tKCkR8Nk.

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"The German is like a willow. No matter which way you bend him, he will always take root again." ~ Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn

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If you forgot to write down the specifics of what block/plot one of your ancestor’s gravesites is in, consider uploading the information in your Ancestry app on your cell phone. It will save you a lot of time wandering around the cemetery!

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Mark Your Calendar: German Day in Colorado is on 5 September from noon to 10 p.m. and 6 September from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presented by the Edelweiss Preservation Foundation, there is a $10 entry fee which includes one free beverage. Free admission for children under 12. For further info go to: www.germandayincolorado.org

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Don’t forget the 2015 free SUMMER CONCERTS in July at the Littleton Museum on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Bring a picnic supper beforehand. For more information go to www.littletongov.org and type “Summer Concerts” in the Search Box on the upper right side.

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There is a Baseball Enthusiast Self-Guided Tour of 13 baseball players and well-known enthusiasts of the sport located at Fairmount Cemetery. Download a locator map and a checklist on their website at www.fairmount-cemetery.com

In addition, “History, It’s What’s for Lunch!” FREE Tours the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of July and August at 12 noon at Fairmount Cemetery. Stroll in Colorado’s largest arboretum to learn about the history that didn’t make it into the books. Bring a canned food item for the Metro Caring Food Bank. Tours start at noon at the Gate Lodge and last 50 minutes. Details at: www.fairmountheritagefoundation.org

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A tongue-in-cheek article making one chuckle and think about the disposal of one’s genealogy materials after death can be found at www.rootdig.blogspot.com/2010/11/cleaning-mothers-house.html

An interesting discussion of Ancestry’s New Facts View can be found at: http://goo.gl/Jum9UJ

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Welcome to our New Members with Family Surnames

Bob Esterl – Esterl, Sullivan
Cheryl Kirksey – Tarantino, Muro, LaBriola, Petrillo
Carolyn Mears – Lunsford, Marshall, Israel, Field, Waterman, Hisaw, Keith, Deaver, Dexter, Chavvin
Dorothy White – Tarantino, Muro, LaBriola

Harold Vogel surveys the May 19th luncheon tables.

Julie Haynie, Chris Fleischhacker and Sylvia Burnside smile for the camera at the luncheon.
EDITOR'S MESSAGE
“HOW FAR BACK DO YOU GO?”

Recently I visited a Deseret Bookstore to see what genealogy books or information they had. When I went to the counter to purchase several generational charts, the salesperson asked, “How far back do you go?”

I pondered how to respond. Should I chuckle and say something like, “Well now, you know that in genealogy that’s not the important thing” or “To Adam and Eve”? However, I wasn’t feeling particularly combative or flippant that day so I just decided to answer, “Oh, pretty far.”

Then I added, “Well, I was born in Salt Lake City, but I am not a Mormon. My mother just stopped off and had me there on her way to California.”

He responded, “Oh, I was born there too.”

I replied, “I was born at St. Mark’s Hospital.”

He said, “My sons were born there.”

At that point, my sales transaction was completed.

As I left the store with my purchases, I pondered his question, “How far back do you go?” I think that would be a far better title for a television program than “Who Do You Think You Are?” I find that title to be rather smart-alecky. I know who I am: wife, mother, grandmother, former teacher, Columbine member, family historian. In the interest of gaining a television audience such shows ignore regular ancestors and jump straight to those with an impact on history. Famous ancestors, however, are non-existent in my family tree. I often think of the title of Sammy Davis, Jr.’s autobiography, I Always Wanted To Be Somebody. In my case, I always wanted to find somebody important in my family tree, but so far it’s a no go. The show’s staff does all of the searching; the individual doesn’t encounter all of the roadblocks and brickwalls. He/She often misses the complete picture of entire families, when the show usually traces a patronymic line. Yes, I wish I could walk in the shoes of my maternal grandmother around Lake Constance in southern Germany, or sail up or down Sognefjorden or Hardangerfjorden in Norway, alongside where both sets of my paternal, two-time great grandparents lived and farmed. Instead, I sit in my pajamas at my computer and travel the virtual world searching and waiting for more online information to appear.

Perhaps “How Far Back Do You Go?” should be the banner for Columbine’s booth at Western Welcome Week in downtown Littleton on August 15th. Come join us that Saturday, and spread the word about how far back you go.
BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

If the President postpones a meeting due to an emergency or bad weather, the VP of Publicity will send emails to members, and a sign will be put on the door of the church. Please do not call the Church office.