



Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 34.

October, November, December

October 1, 2008

Programs & Workshops

CJ Backus Program Chairman

● 14 Oct 2008 1:00 Program

“Parishes, Priests, and Signs of the Sacred: Catholic Church Records”

Certified Genealogist Julie Miller

● 21 Oct 2008 9:30 Early Bird and 1:00 Program

“Missouri: Maps and More”

Past President CGS Pam Smith

● 11 Nov 2008 1:00 Program

Election of Officers

“Brick Walls: Brick by Brick”

Columbine 1st VP and Members

● 18 Nov 2008 10:00 Early Bird

“The Principled Politician” Colorado Governor Ralph Carr

KUSA TV Journalist Adam Schrage

● 18 Nov 2008 1:00 Program

“The Tax man Came- -and He left Records”

Certified Genealogist Carol Darrow

● 9 Dec 2008 12:00 Holiday Luncheon

1:00 Program with Member Participation

CRACKING THE CODE: HOW I CAME TO KNOW MY GRANDFATHER

By Ginger Van Zyl

By the time I was born, my father’s parents had been dead for many years. In fact, my father, the youngest of seven children, had never really known his father. Daniel Monroe Blackburn had died in 1909, of pneumonia, when my father was barely two years old. So whenever I had questions about these paternal grandparents, I would ask my father’s older sisters. I learned only a few things (and now, of course, I wish I had asked more questions – a lot more!), but I was fascinated by what I did learn.

All the stories were about life in the Old West. When I was growing up, our country was in the midst of its love affair with the Wild West. Many of my relatives loved reading western stories. I went to western movies and played cowboy and Indians. The Lone Ranger was a favorite to listen to on the radio and eventually to watch on television. I devoured books about the Oregon Trail and pioneer life. So, when my father told me my grandfather had been a part of the Wild West, I swelled with pride and joy.

The family could tell me that Daniel Monroe Blackburn as a

young man had left his home in Missouri and spent some time “Out West.” In a picture of him taken during that time, I saw a dashing fellow in cowboy clothes sporting an elegant mustache. Stories of Wyatt Earp or some such iconic figure swirled through my romantic brain. Also I knew that Monroe (he went by his middle name), had settled finally in western Colorado with his bride Nora (Graybill), and they eventually owned a ranch near Cedaredge. But the most important clues to learning about Monroe, came from two small books.

Continued on page 3

In This Issue

Programs.....	1
Cracking the Code	1
Columbine Officers.....	2
Dues.....	2
Blank Charts & Forms.....	2
In Memory.....	2
Columbine Website.....	5
Research Trip	5
Columbine Archives.....	6
Nominating Committee	6
Out of the Past.....	6
Bemis Library Books Donations..	7
Denver Library Book Donations..	7
Columbine Membership.....	8
Query Corner.....	8
Proposed Budget	8
Fire at NARA Personnel Records	9
Family History Library News	10
Internet Sites.....	10
Your Copyright	11

**Columbine
Genealogical &
Historical Society, Inc.**

Colorado Corporation (1976)
Cultural & Educational
Organization
(I.R.S. 501 C-3)

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Colorado Council of
Genealogical Societies
+++

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<http://www.columbinegenealogy.com/>

Dues are Due

It is that time once again. The Orange renewal form for the 2009 dues in this newsletter. Dues have not changed: \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple. Please consider giving a donation to Columbine Book Fund which allows us, as a society, to purchase books and place them in the Denver Public Library and Bemis Library. NARA (National Archives & Records Administration) collects and keeps valuable records, such as; census, military, immigration, naturalization and land records to name just a few. Our donations allow NARA to film these records and makes them available to us and others doing research.



You need to have your dues paid by February 1st 2009 to have your name in the 2009 membership roster. When you receive your renewal form please make any changes in address, phone or e-mail on the form.

Paula M. Davis
Membership Coordinator

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Blank Charts & Forms

Download and print the forms below to help organize your research. For information about using Acrobat Reader to download these forms, see the right hand column of this page.

1. Ancestral Chart
2. Research Calendar
3. Research Extract
4. Correspondence Record
5. Family Group Sheet
6. US Census Forms 1790-1930
7. UK Census Forms
8. Canadian Census Forms

Refreshment Committee

The Refreshment Committee thanks the man members who have so graciously volunteered to help with refreshments at our meetings. Without you help, our social time would be compromised. So, a **HUGE** than you is extended to each and every one of you !

Rita Elmore, Diane Hall and Shirley Terry



In Memory

Barbara Brown Columbine Charter member 1973-2008

CRACKING THE CODE: HOW I CAME TO KNOW MY GRANDFATHER

The first was his Autograph Book, a very popular item during the late 1800s. It was filled with sentimental verse, penned in neat Victorian script, written by many young ladies and some male friends, too. Most of the entries were dated between 1875 (when he left home at age 17) and 1891 (when he married). But there were few clues about Monroe himself.

The second “book” was a Pocket Notebook in which entries seemed to be lists of expenses or income, sometimes apparently just scribbles. None of it seemed easily readable. Why couldn’t I read most of the writing? Was it just poor penmanship or poor spelling? A few pages, however, were tantalizing. Place names such as Squaw Creek, or Spanish Gulch, or Camp Watson – where were they? And numbers that were obvious dates. “Someday,” I told myself, “I’ll try to decipher this.”

After I retired and began genealogy research in earnest, I tried to find out more about the Blackburn ancestry. Monroe’s parents were William S. and Sabra (Watson) Blackburn. William was killed in an accident in 1872, when Monroe was only 14, and left Sabra with the six children still at home to raise by herself. The family lived at that time in Lawrence county, Missouri. Monroe’s future wife, Nora (Graybill) Blackburn, was born and raised in Daviess county, Missouri. Her parents were John A. Graybill and Martha Taylor. Martha’s parents (Nora’s grandparents) were Wright and Elizabeth Taylor.

With proverbial beginner’s luck, I discovered Elizabeth Taylor’s maiden name was Blackburn! Was there a connection with Monroe and his family? Contact with a “distant cousin” turned up a family memoir which mentioned that our mutual ancestor William S. Blackburn had a sister who married a Wright Taylor. Further research confirmed the relationship.

It was time now to return to Monroe’s Pocket Notebook. The penciled entries were occasionally faded, but the numbers were readable. However, the words didn’t make sense – even assuming the spelling was often phonetic. It almost looked as if there were numbers mixed in with letters. Eureka! He had used a simple substitution CODE: Every “a” was written as “1”; every “e” was “2”; “i” was 3; “o” was 4; “u” was 5; and selected consonants were numbers 6 through 9. Taking a word that was probably “tobacco” (a frequent entry), in his handwriting it was written “t 3 b 1 C C 4”. What fun! Why did he use code? Just for fun? Or to conceal his writings from siblings, who all loved to tease? Was he as shy and introverted as both my father and me, and did we inherit our love of whimsical challenges from Monroe?

Working my way through the notebook, I transcribed each page (most of which included a date), though the pages were not necessarily in chronological order. Then I sorted the “pages” by date and, with information learned from my other research, began to put together a story of a young man’s life: leaving home, working on his uncle’s farm, making friends, and eventually leaving for the adventure of the Wild West.

The first entry is dated “July the 3, 1875.” Monroe would have been 17 years old. He left home in southwest Missouri (Lawrence county) to travel north to Daviess county to work for his uncle Wright Taylor. The records reflect a three-day journey on horseback with expenditures including paper and stamps (to write home to his mother, or to a girl friend he left behind?). For the next several months he kept monthly expense lists and income earned working for not only his uncle, but for others whose names I now know refer to relatives and neighbors of his uncle Wright Taylor.

For the next five years, the records are sometimes detailed, sometimes sporadic but seem to reveal a hard-working young man whose expenses are minimal – a few new clothes and personal items (tobacco – always tobacco – and occasionally lemonade or candy), and regular purchases of stamps. Since there is no mention of board and room, we infer that he continued to live with his relatives. We know in 1880 he was with them as he is listed in the household of Wright Taylor on the federal census.

Continued on page 4

CRACKING THE CODE: HOW I CAME TO KNOW MY GRANDFATHER

By 1880, however, we begin to see a young man, still hard at work, but with an active social life; indeed, apparently intent on “sowing his wild oats.” The year didn’t start out well though. The January entries include three purchases of tobacco and one purchase of cough syrup! Then the expenses reveal a train trip home to Lawrence county. Was he ill? or did he travel home to celebrate his 22nd birthday on January 11? In February, however, he is working and living in Daviess county again.

In 1880 and ’81 the entries reveal more spending on social life. Fancier clothes, a monthly haircut, expenses for horse and wagon, more whiskey than lemonade, shows, gambling, and “pictures,” as well as a bit of lovesick poetry, fill the next year and a half. Among Monroe’s things that were passed down are many unlabeled tintypes of young ladies. Were these the “pictures?” But he evidently didn’t find the right girl, or he was rejected – the verses make it difficult to know which.

By late July 1881, he is saying goodbye to friends and family, as evidenced from the entries in his autograph book. And the entry on August 10, 1881, reads: “I jumped the train at Winston [Missouri] bound for Colorado.”

Why the dramatic use of the word “jumped” as though he was in a hurry to get away? My theory is, just as today one’s language can be influenced by a Hollywood film, Monroe was feeling the lure of adventure and could have been influenced by the recent train robbery in Winston. On July 15, 1881, the Jesse James gang held up the train at Winston with the tragic killing of the conductor and a bystander. It was in the newspapers and was surely the talk of the area for some weeks. Ah, the romance and adventure of the wild west!

Whatever the impetus to leave, Monroe was now headed “out West.” He went as far as Pueblo, Colorado, and was immediately hired to help build the Santa Fe roundhouse at La Junta. After a few months, the records indicate he moved on west.

Monroe must have tired of the “adventure and romance” of the Wild West. Or it was a postcard from his mother, which has survived, urging him to come home. By 1884, his journal entries indicate he is back home in Lawrence county, Missouri, working for nearby relatives and neighbors. He didn’t forget his wandering days in Oregon, however. After he married in 1891, he and his bride Nora left Missouri in 1892 to settle in Colorado. Then in 1908, he packed up his family and left Montrose county. My aunt, his oldest daughter, told me they had been headed for Oregon! But fate (or sanity) intervened. After only the first 20 miles, he learned of a ranch for sale in Delta county, near Cedaredge. He bought the property and was beginning to make a go of it when he contracted pneumonia (after hunting for calves during a late spring blizzard) and died in early May 1909 at the age of 51.

Now I feel that I know a little more about what kind of man Monroe Blackburn was, what kind of life he led, and what traits I see in him that both my father and myself have inherited.

Here are a few selected verses (spelling and punctuation have been edited) written in August 1882 at Squaw Creek, Oregon.

“I am a happy miner. I love to sing and dance.
I wonder what my love would say if she could see my pants.
Canvas patches on the knees and one upon the stern.
I’ll wear them while I am digging here and home when I return.
But when it comes to cooking, I am mighty hard to beat.
I’ve baked ten thousand loaves of bread the devil could not eat.
I have not changed my fancy clothes, the ones I wore away
Til at last they got so rotten I finally had to say
‘Goodbye old standin’ collar, you lost all pride and starch.



More Than a Normal Website

Donald R. Elliott, Webmaster

Since our databases or online archives were added to the website in January, there have been 3,733 unique visitors arriving at the site, making 5,324 visits and 249,094 hits. [Statistics are through August 2008.] Most came via Google and other similar services. Since September 1st the arrivals are viewing a newly re-designed site that Columbine and its members should be proud of.

This summer Gary Routh implemented a new design for the “main” site while your Webmaster has completed the re-design of the 11 databases that make up the online archives. The online archives include 1) Publications and/or databases that have resulted from Columbine projects from past years: Littleton Cemetery and Arapahoe Marriages; 2) Indexes of church books from our project activity: Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches; 3) Databases from society activities: Pedigree Charts (Surnames), Obituaries from the Littleton Independent and Bemis Bibliography, all ongoing projects that are updated periodically; and 4) Member projects submitted to Columbine for inclusion: Our Heritage (Douglas County history) from Jean Wilson, Cemeteries of Colorado and Colorado Cemetery Index from Don & Doris Elliott. More of Columbine’s past projects work will be added to the site in upcoming months. Think Drinkwine Index, the very first project completed by Columbine members, and a version of the Civil War Volunteer Records.

What is attracting visitors to the site are *some* of the almost 95,000 “unique” words that have been indexed. [Unique words tells us that of the hundreds of the name Johnson occurring in the archives, for example, Johnson would be only counted *once* in the unique word count but all occurrences would be found in a search.] By comparison, most dictionaries have 40,000 unique words. Once a visitor arrives at the Columbine online archives, all of the 95,000 words can be searched, either by selecting all 11 of the archives, or individually for each one of the 11 archives. This is a very powerful capability that visitors searching for Colorado names can appreciate and can pick up names that Google doesn’t index.

Within our archives are names with death dates back to 1859. [See Littleton Cemetery & Colorado Cemetery Index.] Some of the early arrivals show birth dates prior to 1859 with some back to 1800. [See Colorado Cemetery Index.] If you have any chance of having persons that may have passed through Colorado and/or the Littleton and Arapahoe County area, it may be worth trying our internal search capability. Otherwise let any of your contacts know that a visit to the Columbine site may be worth their time. There are names and information on the site that could provide a break-through as a result of the visit.

<http://www.columbinegenealogy.com/>

COLUMBINE RESEARCH TRIP

Arrangements have been made thru the Atlas Travel Agency/Sally Garcia to go on a research trip to The Family History Library in Salt Lake City next year.

We will be leaving Denver **Tuesday April 28, 2009 and returning Sunday May 3, 2009.**

The hotel that has been selected is the Salt Lake Plaza. It is conveniently located next door to the Library. Cost for the 5 night stay is \$ 267.50 per person based on double occupancy.

We have reserved 10 rooms so even though this seems early, you need to be thinking about whether you would like to take this trip. Rooms will be on a first come first served basis.

Airline costs cannot be determined until at least January 2009. If you prefer you can make your own travel plans. More details to come as the time draws closer.

Columbine has not put together a research trip to Salt Lake in several years. It should be a fun and productive time.



News from the CGHS Archives

by Joyce Lohse – September 2008

Hopefully, summer research has provided new branches for your family tree. Now is a great time to turn in your submissions for the Columbine pedigree chart project. When preparing your ancestry reports for the Columbine archives, please keep a few things in mind:

- Submit your report in ancestor tree format, legibly printed
- Provide two copies of your family tree, front side of paper only
- Place your name and address on each page
- Restrict the size of your submission to **ten pages or less**
- Turn in a newly revised pedigree chart if you have additions and corrections to an old entry

Our pedigree charts can be studied in the reference section of Bemis Library, at Columbine business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, and online at <http://www.columbinegenealogy.com/>. On the web site menu, go to Online Archives, and click on “Columbine Member Surname Index” to search for your ancestors. Columbine submitter members are identified by a number.

The archivist job involves adding names to an MS Works database. Indexes are updated twice yearly when new pedigrees are entered into the display binders and online. If you are interested in being involved in this exciting, worthwhile and important benefit of Columbine membership, please contact President Sandi Klein, or Archivist Joyce Lohse.

Trustworthy Sheboygan Press (Sheboygan, Wisconsin) 19 Apr 1967 Sioux Falls, S.D. (UPI) Ronald Kiggins, a trusty at the Minnehaha County Jail escaped Tuesday but officials said he is still eligible to be a trusty. He came back eight hours after he left.

Nominating Committee Report

Robert Jenkins, Committee Chairman
November 11th Election
To take office in 2009

President Sandi Klein
2nd VP Publicity open
Recording Secretary Bonnie Toland
Treasurer Robert Jenkins
Membership Jan Geyer
Auditor Ann Lisa Pearson & Richard Evans
Nominating Committee Connie Strandberg
(chairperson) Ann Lisa Pearson, Judy Phelps

Out of the Past

WVR (World Vital Records)
Woodville Republic (Woodville, Mississippi)
July 22, 1933

Excerpts from some of the political parties that have sprung up since 1800 to encroach on the two major political parties.

1. The Clinton Democracy, born in 1812 and died the same year.
2. The Anti-Masonic party, born in 1826 and through since such men as Seward, Fillmore, weed, Clay and Wirt were identified with it, its existence ceased in 1832, as a national party.
3. The Liberty party, born in 1832, died in 1844.
4. The Free Soil or Abolition Party born in 1848 died in 1852.
5. The Southern State Rights party, born in 1852 died the same year.
6. The American Know Nothing party born in 1856 died in 1860.
7. The Liberal Republican party born in 1872, died in the same year.
8. The Temperance party's birth and death occurred in 1872.
9. The Labor Reform party came into and went out of existence in 1872.
10. The American party was born in 1875 and died in 1884.

Twenty parties were listed in this article and none had a life more than a few years.

Books Donated to Bemis and Denver Public Libraries

Gary W Routh, Acquisitions



Book purchase recommendations from members are always welcome; please contact me by email or phone: growth@growth.org or 303-794-3790

Bemis Public Library Donations – August 2008

Carolina Cradle, Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762 Robert W. Ramsey, 1964, 252 p. Meticulous scholarly research into the earliest settlers of Rowan County, N.C., with maps, charts and index. Author tracks the origins of hundreds of families that settled one area. Gift of Woody Trosper.

Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787, Compiled by E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, 1978, 227 p. Essential reference for any Virginia Revolutionary regimental researcher, this volume is packed with useful data from the Virginia State Library archives.

Jury Lists of South Carolina 1778-1779, by GE Lee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay, 2007, 131 p. These statewide jury lists by district and community are the closest thing to a state census for these years. Faithfully copied in exact order of originals, includes specific dates and locations with full index.

Albion's Seed, Four British Folkways in America, by David Hackett Fischer, 1989, 946 p. Highly acclaimed and ambitious cultural history of four British cultures which settled regions of colonial America. Provides insights into the *folkways* of each group: speech, marriage, building, food, social, and so on.

Moving Toward the Mainstream, the Brethren of Eastern Pennsylvania, by Donald R. Fitzkee, 1995, 347 p. History of Pennsylvania's German-American *plain people* of the Brethren Church. Their struggle with participation in war, social changes and assimilation. Full index. Gift of Carole Schetter.

Of German Ways - History, Art, Music, Sports, Literature and Customs, by Lavern Rippley, 1986, 302 p. Vividly describes the political and cultural contributions of German immigrants to American life. No index. Gift of Carole Schetter.

Denver Public Library Donations – August 2008

Gwinnett County, Georgia: Marriages 1833-1900, Compiled & published by Gwinnett Historical Society, Lawrenceville, GA, 2007. Fully indexed county marriages by both groom and bride with all available details.

Greene County, Tennessee, Chancery Court Minutes 1825-1876, by Golden R. Burgner, 371 p., 1987. Over 22,000 names of persons appearing in Greene County Chancery Court minutes, many not found anywhere else. Full index.

Ages from Court records 1636-1700, Vol. 1 – Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk Counties, Mass., by Melinde Lutz Sanborn, 227 p., 2003 Names and ages extracted from court depositions of the first century in America, this extensive alphabetic listing can help locate many early colonial individuals and associate their age with a year.

Vincent Family records, Vol. Two – Census Records During the 1850's, by Sheridan E. Vincent, 116 p., 1979. Fully indexed listings of all Vincent enumerations in both U.S. and Canadian census. Covers all states and provinces with geographic details, ages, etc. Gift of Shirley Stertz.

The Shawver Name in History, by Ancestry.com, 93 p., 2008. Slick computer generated genealogy pages for the Shawver family in America. Colorful historical charts and generic photos, with Ancestry.com family statistics, immigration, military service, geographic distribution, etc. No index. Gift of Shirley Stertz.

FACTS ABOUT THE FIRE AT THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER'S MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS FACILITY

(A NARA Bulletin) Submitted by Bill Nix

I. RECORD BLOCKS AFFECTED BY THE FIRE.

The July 12, 1973 fire at NPRC destroyed about 80% of the records for Army personnel discharged between November 1, 1912 and January 1, 1960 and about 75% of the records for Air Force personnel with surnames from Hubbard thru "Z" discharged between September 25, 1947 and January 1, 1964.

II. A LISTING OF THE RECORDS LOST IN THE FIRE DOES NOT EXIST.

When a record is not in NPRC'S files at the present time, and it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on July 12, 1973, Center employees often cannot determine for certain if it was burned because:

- 1) There were no indices in the blocks of records involved. The records were merely filed in alphabetical order within each major block:

World War I November 1, 1912-September 7, 1939

World War II September 8, 1939-December 31, 1946

Post World War II (Army) January 1, 1947-December 31, 1959

(Air Force) September 25, 1947-December 31, 1963

- 2) Millions of the records (especially medical records) had been withdrawn from all three blocks and lent to the Veterans Administration prior to the fire.

III. A VETERAN MAY SUBMIT PHOTOCOPIES OF DOCUMENTS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION TO THIS CENTER.

If a veteran who inquires about his/her record is advised that it was probably lost in the fire, he/she may send to this Center photocopies of any document he/she has in his/her possession, particularly separation documents. These will be authenticated by our staff, added to our computerized index and filed for permanent retention.

IV. ALTERNATE SOURCES OF MILITARY SERVICE DATA.

In the event a veteran has no records in his/her possession, the essential military service data is available from a number of alternate sources. The Veterans Administration, for example, maintains records on veterans whose military records were affected by the fire, if the veteran or his/her family filed a claim prior to July 1973. Other sources of service information include various kinds of "organizational" records such as morning reports, payrolls, and military orders at this Center. There is also a great deal of information available in records of the State Adjutants General, and other state "veterans service" offices. By using the alternate sources of information which are available at this Center, NPRC employees can often reconstruct the veteran's beginning and ending dates of active service, the character of the service, rank while in service, times lost while on duty, and periods of hospitalization. Usually this Center is able to issue NA Form 13038, *Certification of Military Service*---which is considered to be the equivalent of a DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*---for the purpose of establishing eligibility for veteran's benefits.

V. DATA NECESSARY TO START THE RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

Of course, the key to reconstructing military data is to get enough specific information from the veteran to allow our Center personnel to search the available alternate sources. The information normally required is:

- 1) Full name used during Service
- 2) Branch of Service
- 3) Approximate dates of service
- 4) Service number
- 5) Place of Discharge
- 6) Last unit of assignment



Family History
Library
familysearch.org

9 Million Historic Philadelphia Records Now Searchable Online

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—In conjunction with the Federation of Genealogical Societies' 2008 Annual Conference in Philadelphia this week, FamilySearch announced the availability of two historic Philadelphia City record sets online—Death Certificates for 1803 to 1915 and Marriage Indexes for 1885 to 1951. The collections provide access to nearly nine million deaths and marriage records. The free databases are available at FamilySearch.org (go to "Search Records" and then "Record Search pilot").

Family Search Teams with findmypast.com and Others to Broaden Access to All Censuses from England & Wales

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—FamilySearch announced today that it is joining forces with findmypast.com, The Origins Network, and Intelligent Image Management—companies that specialize in providing online access to British family history resources—to make significant British historical record collections more broadly available online. The first joint initiative seeks to publish online indexes to censuses for England and Wales from 1841 to 1901. The 1841 and 1861 Census indexes are the first targeted under the agreement and are accessible now at FamilySearch.org and findmypast.com.

In the agreement, FamilySearch, in conjunction with The Origins Network, will provide digital images for the 1851, 1871, and 1881 Censuses. It will also extend the 1871 Census index. Findmypast.com will provide FamilySearch copies of its English and Welsh Census indexes from 1841 to 1901. The Federation of Family History Societies will help complete the index for the 1851 Census.

Research Outline Jewish Genealogy

Revised Aug 2008

INTERNET SITES

■ <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/index-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new online database, Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead.

Over 1,159,000 men and women served in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War (1939-1945) and 44,093 people lost their lives

■ <http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/>

Genealogy Blog Finder

■ <http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/>

The unofficial, unauthorized view of the two big genealogy websites: Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. The Insider reports on, defends, and constructively criticizes these two and associated topics.

■ <http://catalog.loc.gov/>

Library of Congress on line catalog

■ <http://www.genealogyofnewengland.com/sjc.htm>

Steve Condarcure's New England Genealogy Index
800,009 Individuals

■ http://dunhamwilcox.net/barbour/middletown_barbour_main.htm

Indexed Barbour Collection
Middletown Connecticut

■ <http://labs.familysearch.org/>

FamilySearch Labs showcases new family history technologies that aren't ready for prime time. Your feedback will help us refine new ideas and bring them to market sooner.



Check them out



Your Copyright



By Elizabeth E (Betty) Brown

Do you know that you won the copyright to your writing (including letters and diaries) from the moment of creation. Yes, you do. But protecting your copyright is another matter. How can it be protected? By registering it with the U. S. Copyright office. It should be noted that our courts will not accept a suit for copyright infringement unless there has been notice of the copyright ownership and the material has been registered in the U. S. Copyright Office.^{1,2} The Address is: The U. S. copyright Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. SE, Washington D. C. 20559. These remarks pertain to the U. S. as copyrights in foreign countries may differ from our U. S. law (Particularly in the length of the copyright term.)

Copyright is a constitutional right recognized in the first U. S. Constitution in 1787 (Article I, Section 8, Clause 8). Our first Copyright Act was in 1790. The idea of copyright was not an American idea, though. It has been said that “The foundations of U. S. Copyright Law were laid down more than 300 years ago in England.”¹
² Our Copyright Law has been amended many times and undergone 2 major revisions in 1909 and 1976 (Public Law 94-553, Title 17, US Code, Copyrights.)

Indicative of the importance copyright knowledge is the fact that the Special Libraries Association established a seven-course program for a Certificate in Copyright Management with the first five sessions (courses) online and the last two as all-day sessions at the 2007 annual SLA conference.

Only “original” works can be copyrighted and not such things as ideas, concepts, facts, names, slogans, or titles. Besides written works, e.g. books, articles, and newspapers to name a few, other areas include motion pictures, pictures, and photographs, musical works, dramatic works, pantomime and choreographic works, sound recordings, and architectural and sculptural works.

At the time of the 1976 revision while working for IBM Corp., I served on the Copyright Committee of the Special Libraries Association. After each meeting of the Committee, I was grilled by our company lawyer who was responsible for copyright matters, He was anxious to know what others were thinking and whether or not anyone was planning to take any legal action. (I learned of none at the time.) Many companies today pay through CCC (Copyright Clearance Center) for copying privileges for their employees. Today’s Digital world has new problems recognized in the 1998 Digital Millennium Act.

When we submit an article to our local newsletters, unless we take formal action to retain the copyright, we transfer the right to publish it and allow, as our *CGHS Newsletter* does, to copyright it by its copywriting of the whole newsletter. Some newsletters I receive are copyrighted and some are not; I am not aware of any copyright problems for any of them.

The warnings you see on copiers in libraries are required by Copyright Law. Works in the public domain (e.g. federal Government works) are not a problem, but figuring out if something is in the public domain sometimes is difficult. Making a single copy for personal use is permitted as Fair Use and there have been accommodations for teachers to make multiple copies for educational purposes. Although publication before 1923 in the U. S. now puts works into the public domain, because their initial terms and possible renewals have expired, determining the status of later works can be a problem. Cheryl Besenjak and Sharon DeBartolo Carmack have provided table that are very helpful for determining if the registered copyright may have expired or may still be in effect.^{1,2}

I have never lost interest in the subject. I read and save the monthly “Info Rights” column by Lesley Ellen Harris in the Special Libraries Association’s newsletter *Information Outlook*. She is a copyright lawyer and editor of *The Copyright and New Media Law Newsletter*. It’s surprising, isn’t it that copyright is important enough to lead lawyers to special in it? That’s good reason to know about it and to respect it.

1, Besenjak, Cheryl. *Copyright Plain & Simple*. 2d ed. Franklin Lakes, NJ.: Career Press 2001c

2. Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Carmack’s Guide to Copyright & Contracts. A Primer for Genealogists Writers & Researchers*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2005c

**Columbine
Genealogical &
Historical Society, Inc.**

Meetings
1:00 p.m.
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays
January thru May
and
September thru November
No Meetings in June, July & August
Social only in December
2nd Tuesday
South Wing, South Entrance
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
6400 S. University Blvd.
Littleton, CO

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Individual.....\$15.00
Individual and Spouse....\$20.00

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If you are concerned as to whether a meeting will take place, you are asked to call one of the officers of the Society. They will be able to inform you of any cancellations or other changes. Call before 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday as Board Meetings begin at 9:30. Please do not call the Church office. The list of officers is on page two of every newsletter.

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