



# Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 1

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – January, February, March

Winter 2020

## Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

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**CGHS Website**

<http://columbinegenealogy.com/>

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## The Queen and the Cowgirl

By Connie Strandberg

In November of 1947 my sister and I were joined by a girlfriend of ours at the kitchen table in our ranch house in central Montana. We listened to the radio broadcast of the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten. We didn't miss a word. No television at that time where we lived!

About the time of the wedding, our teachers promoted the idea of writing letters to pen pals in other countries. The overriding reason was to communicate with kids our age who lived in countries returning to normal after World War II. I picked a girl in England named Helen, and we had a correspondence going by the time of the coronation.

In early 1950 I was eager to read every word of a serialized book titled, *The Little Princesses*, which was printed in the *Ladies Home Journal* magazine. It seemed to take forever for each monthly issue to arrive in our mailbox so I could immerse myself in the story of sisters Elizabeth and Margaret Rose when they were growing up. I was unaware at the time that the book, written by the girls' nanny, Marion Crawford, caused a furor in the Royal Family. In those days, the privacy of the Royals was protected far more strongly than it is today. Over the years, I have continued to follow Elizabeth as she became Queen and had children of her own.

In June of 1953, our family embarked on what was planned to be a three-day-long cattle drive to move our cows and young calves to summer pasture. The first day of the cattle drive, June 2, 1953, was the day Elizabeth II was crowned Queen.

See Queen on Page 4

## Meetings at Columbine

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**Meeting Times:**

Regular Meetings ..... 1:00 pm - 2nd & 3rd Tuesday each month (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)

Early Bird Classes ..... 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Jan, Feb, Mar.

Board of Directors Meetings ..... 9:30 am - 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June, July & Dec.)

Columbine Writers' Group ..... Meets following the afternoon program on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

**Meeting Place:**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 6400 South University Blvd, Centennial, CO 80121

For more information about Columbine Meetings, visit our website: [www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com)

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## Program Previews

### CGHS Programs for Early 2020

By Anita Burbank-Jenkins, 1st Vice President, Programs

**Jan. 14, 2020**

**Julie McKemy presents "A New Year's Resolution – Getting to Know Your Columbine Website"**

ColumbineGenealogy.com is the public face of our society. How familiar with it are you? Have you ventured beyond the home page or the calendar of program information? Come discover the information that makes up our website.

**Jan. 21, 2020**

**Ellen Kowitt presents "What Would Nancy Drew Do in the Quest for a Missing Family?"**

Researching family history is a lot like solving a Nancy Drew mystery. Join us for an overview of examples and techniques genealogists use as found in this classic series. We'll explore old and new tools of the trade, library materials, court records, newspapers, and gravestones incorporating community history, and some very untraditional resources.

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## Welcome New Members

Laurie O'Shea - Mary J. Baldwin - Diane Veno - Kathy Farrell - Lynne Utter - Norma Whitaker

**Norma Whitaker** - I've lived in the Denver area most of my life. After a hiatus of several years, I'm gradually getting back into family history research. I haven't quite decided which line to tackle first, but here are the names I am researching - Piper, Davies, Davis, Powell, Sanger, Castiday and Rendle and locations in Pittsburgh, PA; Wiltshire and Pennington, England; Ontario, Canada; Breconshire, Wales.

**Mary Baldwin** (aka as Marijah) - I was born and raised in Plainfield in North Central Iowa. I have four children, eleven grandchildren, and am step-grandma to eight great-grandchildren. I am a Certified Rolfer and Rolf Movement Practitioner, not actively practicing. I like to sew and read. I've been doing genealogy for years. My ancestors came from the Netherlands; Inverness, Scotland and County Cork, Ireland. I am researching the surnames Janssen, Mein, Metcalf, McIntosh, McRoberts, and Anderson, especially my great-grandfather Janssen.

**Laura O'Shea** – I was born in Canada, grew up in the Detroit area and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. I moved to Colorado in the 1970's, but lived many places since that time. I'm retired now after working in the aerospace industry and the cosmetics industry. My maternal grandfather emigrated from Russia to Canada during the Bolshevik Revolution. My paternal grandfather was from Ireland. I have been researching an Irish relative who was a Union captain in the Civil War, but hit a snag when researching ship manifests.



## *Treasured Island*

By Bob Jenkins

I am in the possession of a treasured map. It is about 23" high and 32" wide. In the lower right-hand corner, beside a compass, is the inscription "Sketched for HAZEL by Mariana." Hazel is my grandmother. Mariana is my mother's first cousin. The title of the map is "A Map of the BAY and the ISLAND and the CITY of GALVESTON with a variety of notes on the points of topographical and marine interest in the vicinity."

The artist is Mariana Kendall Roach. She was a multi-talented woman, a bookbinder and a good friend of my mother. They were both born in 1908 in Collin County, Texas. Mariana's younger sister was Madeline Loving Myercord. (Historical note: Their great-grandfather was Oliver Loving for whom the Goodnight-Loving Trail was named in 1866.) Mariana never married, but she raised seven children, ages 12 to 25, who were orphaned when her sister, Madeline died in 1962. Madeline's husband had died in 1953.

The map covers Galveston County and Trinity Bay. It also includes Galveston Bay, East Bay, West Bay and at least 21 smaller bays and lakes. It has about 17 bayous, some creeks, some islands and a number of small towns. I should not forget that it includes the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway. It is decorated with ships, birds, fish and a crab.

Growing up in Houston made it easy to visit Galveston fairly often during the 1940's. My grandparents lived four blocks from the beach. We rented floats and rode the waves in the Gulf. We fished from the jetties and caught croaker, catfish, and occasionally, a trout. I learned to clean fish. There was an amusement park on the way to the beach. The sidewalk was hot to our bare feet. The lawns were sandy and full of sticker burrs. The nights were warm and the sea breeze was a welcome relief. We explored the concrete gun emplacements which were there during WWII to defend against enemy attack from the Gulf of Mexico.

# CGHS



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Camp Ross Sterling was on the north shore of Trinity Bay. I learned to shoot a rifle at the YMCA camp there. I attended a church camp there several times in the 1950s.

Under the name GALVESTON on the map are the words "Yo Solo." I did not pay much attention to that at first. I knew it meant "I Alone" in Spanish. Some research found that it referred to Bernardo de Gálvez for whom Galveston was named. He aided America in the Revolutionary War. In particular, he attacked the British garrison at Pensacola in 1781. To honor the heroic act of Bernardo de Gálvez when he entered the Bay of Pensacola with a single ship, defeating the British, King Carlos III of Spain gave him the right to use a shield with the heraldic motto: "Yo Solo."

This barely scratches the surface of all the memories I have associated with this map, and of the historical events associated with it. Is it any wonder I treasure this map?

### Queen from Page 1

Montana's annual rainfall is about 15 inches a year. On Coronation Day, we were pelted with six inches of rain! The only way to stay in touch with the coronation was to drive the pickup truck, very slowly, at the rear of the herd, so I could listen to the narrative on the radio. Other riders needed to take a turn in the truck to dry out a bit, so my focus on what was happening in London was spotty at best. Scenes of royal processions with horses pulling glass carriages were in stark contrast to what I was experiencing looking at wet horses, cattle, a dog and driving rain, as the windshield wipers cleared the view.

The drenching rain, plus spring snow melt, resulted in a severe flood in central Montana which kept my family and all our livestock stuck between the home ranch and summer grass. Roads and bridges were washed away so we could not complete the cattle drive for a couple of weeks. Fortunately, my aunt lived at the halfway point. We moved in with her family for the wait.

After we got back home, a packet from my pen pal, Helen, arrived in the mail. What a nice surprise it was to receive a book of pictures plus the June 3, 1953 issue of the London *Daily Mail* newspaper printed in gold ink. Other than the pictures and stories of Elizabeth becoming Queen, the paper said it also rained in London that day. That is about the only thing Queen Elizabeth and I have in common!



Front Page, London *Daily Mail*,  
June 3, 1953, The Golden Reprint

Helen and I have kept in touch. We met in person twice in recent years. I repeatedly thank her for sending the book and newspaper, which I still have. Those souvenirs thrilled me so much back when I was in high school.



# *Educational Opportunities*

By Jean Adams and Ann Lisa Pearson

## **2020 – Here we come!**

We (CGHS) are starting the new year off with a series of Early Bird Workshops to get your investigative juices flowing! The “we” include 2019 Education Coordinator, Jean Adams, and her 2020 successor, Ann Lisa Pearson; all members of CGHS who have served as mentors over the past few years and all members who have served as presenters for our Education programs. Here’s the scoop:

## **Early Bird Programs**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - 9:30-11:30am**

### **Beginner Genealogy Workshop**

**Location: Bemis Public Library**

6014 S. Datura Street,  
Littleton, CO 80120  
Phone: 303-795-3961

Have you always wanted to research your ancestors but didn’t know where to start? If so, this basic class will give you some resources and valuable local connections. Some of the topics include where to find records, how and when to document your sources, building your family tree with software, using online resources and an introduction to the Bemis Library genealogical collection. Instructors, Jean Larson Adams and Barbara Elliott are current members of Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society.

*Registration required on or before January 14, 2020.* Class fee is \$25, which includes the book *How to Do Everything Genealogy, 4th ed.* by George G. Morgan. Make checks payable to Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society or CGHS. To register, visit the library’s website at [www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org) or call the library at 303-795-3961.

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020 - 9:30 – 11:30am**

### **New Member and New Researcher Orientation**

**Location: Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit**

6400 S. University Blvd,  
Centennial, CO 80121

Calling all new members and new researchers! You are invited to an informative session with our experienced CGHS members and teachers. In addition to learning about Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society and what it has to offer, we will have a presentation by Nancy Trimm, Deputy Director of Bemis Public Library. Nancy will tell us about the resources, databases and research assistance available at the library. Even if you have been researching for a while, you can learn more about your society and the nearby Bemis Public Library at this session.

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - 9:30-11:30am**

## **Getting more from Census Enumerations**

**Location: Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit**

6400 S. University Blvd,  
Centennial, CO 80121

Ann Lisa Pearson will lead this session exploring census research and the many ways that you can use the census to build your families. You will learn how to find clues through neighbors, the naming of children and state censuses. She will discuss how some census takers used initials rather than names and the various ways names were spelled. She will also cover the many ways to use spreadsheets, and other forms to help trace your families from the 1790 to the 1940 census, with examples of how she solved many of her family relationships using census records.

## *Strategic Planning Committee*

By Nancy Reubert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

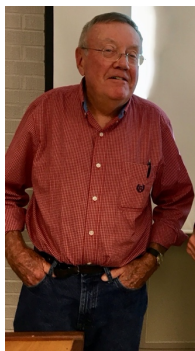
Where is CGHS Headed?

According to our bylaws, Columbine's primary objectives are to promote an interest in genealogy and history, and to promote genealogy education. We do that pretty darn well. Can we do better?

A small group of board members has been meeting to set goals for the next few years and figure out how to accomplish them. Things we are working on include how to revive our projects committee, how to attract new members and keep current members interested and excited, how to stay financially stable, and how to attract more members to board positions. Our website needs updating and we need to increase our social media presence. Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will occur in 2023. How shall we commemorate it?

You can keep up with our progress. All our meeting notes and working documents are on the Members-Only page at [www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com). If you would like to assist by contacting a few other genealogy groups with a short survey, or need the password to see the documents, contact Nancy Reubert at [nan@texandnan.com](mailto:nan@texandnan.com) or 303-741-4491.

## *Thanks to Our Fall 2019 Speakers*



Stan Moore



John Putnam



Barb Elliott



Beth Benko

## *The Oldest Quilt in Colorado*

By Julie Mann

I've always enjoyed studying old quilts. Each one tells a story about the ancestor who made it. Touching it brings me close to that story.

So, what is the story behind the documented oldest quilt in Colorado and the person who made it?<sup>1</sup> The story begins with a lady named Susan Smith Adair (1836-1919), my husband's great aunt.

Susan was the daughter of Ensign and Juanita Smith who were among the first settlers to Golden. They arrived in Colorado territory in 1859 from New Mexico. For a time, they lived in Blackhawk, searching for gold. I previously wrote about this family and their ties to the Lace House in Blackhawk. (*Columbine Newsletter, Fall 2019, Vol. 46, No 4.*)

Susan was 23 and brought her unfinished cotton blocks with her on the wagon when the family came from New Mexico. It was the custom of the day for a potential bride to make a quilt for her wedding. Susan appliquéd each block by hand, without electricity, in a small cabin in Blackhawk.

Her father brought one of the first Howe treadle sewing machines with them on the wagon and later Susan would continue to work on her quilt. It would be 13 years before she married. Known first as the "Jenny Linn quilt," it was later named "Cockscomb (rooster comb) and Princes feather." After her marriage in 1872 she was busy with family, so she set the quilt aside and didn't add the borders until after 1900.

So how did we discover Susan was my husband Tom's great aunt? Working on his tree on Ancestry, I was surprised to see Tom's great-grandfather Manuel was Susan's brother! On Ancestry, his cousin posted about the quilt, so I was hooked.

We were very fortunate to see the quilt recently when a well-known appraiser, Jeananne Wright, did a trunk show at our local library. She had purchased the quilt years ago in Denver and traced its history. The quilt had a handwritten note attached by Susan's daughter giving information on how and when it was made. It was interesting to see how tiny the stitches were and how she used vegetables and plants to create the dyes. The appraiser noted the excellent handwork done by Susan and was so interested in it she put an ad in the paper trying to find any of Susan's descendants. The cousin we found answered the ad.

Although we don't own the quilt, we can "visit" it anytime in Longmont where it resides beautifully on the appraiser's guest bed. The sewing machine was on display at the Golden History Museum, but has since disappeared. So, I feel we are part of Colorado history.



The quilt is featured in the following books and articles:

"*The Quilt that Walked to Golden*" by Sandra Dallas and Nanette Simonds.

"*Colorado Quilting from Mountains to Plains*" by Mary Ann Schmidt and the Colorado Quilting Council.

"*Pieces of Quilt Unravel a Past*," Denver Post article, Feb. 27, 2012 by Jeananne Wright.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Ann Schmidt and the Colorado Quilting Council, *Colorado Quilting From Mountains to Plains*, (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. 2014), 109.

## *Trip Down Memory Lane, Labor Day 2018, Oak Creek, Colorado*

By Anita Burbank-Jenkins

On September 2, 2018 my husband, Don Jenkins, and I visited Oak Creek, Colorado to partake in the Labor Day celebrations held in this old mining town nestled in the hills of the Western Slope. There were several mines working at Oak Creek during its heyday in addition to 27 saloons on Main Street!

We had met Nita Naugle, the historian, at the Tracks and Trails Museum last year. She had given us many articles and pictures of Don's grandparents, Dominic Hamidy and Katarina Dante and had invited us back this year.

Dominic and Katarina were married in Italy in 1897 and emigrated to the United States in 1899. After a short stay in Walsenburg, Colorado, the couple moved to Oak Creek. Dominic worked in a coal mine for a few years but then became a store owner after he built the North Pole Italian Store. He also built his house, since he was an expert carpenter and had brought his woodworking tools with him from Italy.

The couple raised three sons and two daughters in this booming coal mining town and became active members of the community. They were frequent visitors of the local Catholic Church.

Their youngest son, Shorty (Remo) Hamidy was the owner of the local hardware store that he ran for over 50 years. Shorty was not only a successful businessman, he was an institution. Although he only had an 8th grade education, he became a prosperous and well-respected member of the community. He belonged to several organizations -- the Lion's Club, the Knights of Columbus and the Rod and Gun Club. He was a lifetime member of the Oak Creek Fire Department. He was president of the South Routt Medical Center, and president of the Routt County Federal Savings and Loan where he served on the board for 32 years. In addition, he served as director and chairman of the Oak Creek Town Board. Shorty also played a saxophone in the local band, the Moonlight Serenaders, which was much in demand throughout the valley. In the 1940's he became a part owner of the Keystone Mine and tried to keep the mine open so there would be work in the area.

In an interview with Kelle Shockley, Shorty stated:

*"My folk came to Oak Creek in 1909. My dad was a carpenter and also worked at the Juniper Coal Company, which is not in existence now. In 1911 the rest of the family, two brothers, three sisters, and myself moved to Oak Creek. I was born in Walsenburg, Colorado in 1903 and I have been here in Colorado ever since...My dad ran a grocery store, and I worked there during the strike at the coal company. We all had to work to pay off the debts."*

(Unfortunately during the mine strike of 1915 he carried too many miners with credit and was forced to close his store.)

Shorty married a local school teacher, Tirzah Shepard, and although they did not have any children, they became surrogate grandparents for many of the town's children.

Tirzah Shepard was born in Lincoln, Nebraska but later moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado and then to Denver. She graduated from the University of Denver and a teacher's college. Later she was the private secretary to Major Bonfils, who owned the Denver Post. She came to Oak Creek in 1932 to teach first grade and was my husband, Don's teacher. She loved lavender and all her clothes were some hue of this color. Tirzah married Shorty Hamidy in 1937. She was a member of both the Catholic Church in Oak Creek and also the Altar and Rosary Society.

Unfortunately, Tirzah developed a respiratory disease and was unable to stand the cold, harsh winters in Oak Creek. She and Shorty bought a house in Denver where she would spend the winters. Their house had belonged to Lowell Thomas, the American writer and broadcaster. He gave Shorty an old-fashioned tube radio called an



Atwater Kent. In 1993, shortly before his death, Shorty gave the radio and Dominic's woodworking tools to his nephew Don.

During our visit this Labor Day, two former citizens of Oak Creek gathered around Don in the local restaurant to share their memories of Shorty and Tirzah. The two sisters who chatted with Don had been young girls when they lived next door to the couple and enjoyed telling stories about them. They remembered having family get togethers where Tirzah served them spaghetti and meatballs on their front lawn! They also said that Shorty and Tirzah had been like grandparents to them.

Last year after meeting Nita and going through the Tracks and Trails Museum, Don decided that he wanted to return Shorty's possessions to the museum to be enjoyed by the citizens of the town and others interested in the history of Oak Creek. Nita was very appreciative this Labor Day when we delivered Dominic's woodworking tools that had been mounted on a peg board, as well as the radio to be displayed in the museum. These items have now come full circle.



Shorty Hamidy in his  
hardware store, Oak  
Creek, Colorado



Atwater Kent radio and  
woodworking tools

## *Common Genealogy Terminology*

### **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

BCG – Board for Certification of Genealogists – nonprofit organization providing standard credentials for becoming a certified genealogist.

CG – Certified Genealogist – credential demonstrating competence in research, analysis, kinship determination and reporting skills.

FHL – Family History Library

GEDCOM – Genealogical Data Communication - a file format for exchanging genealogical info between different genealogy software.

GPS – Genealogical Proof Standard – guideline for establishing the proof of a genealogical conclusion.

SSDI – Social Security Death Index

Viz. – abbreviation typically used to introduce examples or further details to illustrate a point.

### **Archaic Terms**

Chattel – tangible, movable personal property.

Consort – spouse or partner, usually a wife.

Dower – a widow's share for life of her husband's estate.

Indentured Servant – someone who bound himself into service of another person for a set number of years, often in return for transportation to another country.

Spinster – an unmarried, never-married woman.

Relict – widow; surviving spouse of a deceased person.

### **Legal and Standard Terms**

Administratrix – a female administrator, such as for a will

Emigrant – person who leaves their country to settle in another country.

Immigrant – person who comes to settle into a country from another country.

Intestate – a person who dies without leaving a valid will.

Tithe – money due as a tax for support of the clergy, church or government.

## *Waiting for the Dryer*

By Margaret Schmidt

I was tackling odds and ends around the house, waiting impatiently for the dryer to finish its work. I wanted to get clothes folded and put away so that I could get deeply involved in my current project. I knew that if I got started on the project, I wouldn't hear the dryer buzz and the clothes would be forgotten until the end of the day.

The day was bitterly cold, and suddenly a flood of memories came to me of cold winter days in my youth. I could see my mother coming into the house with an armload of clothes that she had hung out to dry earlier. Her nose was red from the cold air and as she came into the warm house, her glasses fogged up. The clothes were frozen stiff. Jeans could stand by themselves and shirtsleeves reached out for warm air and comfort.

Suddenly, I felt a deep sympathy for the hard work that she did without complaint; a sympathy long in coming, for I never gave the red nose a thought in those days.

The hard work started early in the morning. Even on nice days, it was a great deal of work to wash the clothes with the wringer washing machine and the two rinse tubs on the small enclosed porch. The porch doubled as a mud room and was crowded with coats, spare boots and the hot water heater. The water heater wasn't large enough to provide sufficient hot water for the laundry, so water was always heated on the kitchen stove and carried to the porch. On a cold day, doing the washing would have been so much more difficult, and maintaining warm water for washing must have been impossible.

The washed, rinsed, and wrung out clothes went into a laundry basket – a round wooden fruit crate with an oilcloth liner. The basket was pulled to the clothesline in our children's red wagon, and the clothes were hung out to dry – or more likely to freeze stiff. How did my mother's hands survive all that – cold water, hot water, frigid air, and pinning to the line? They became as red and sore as her nose.

On those wintry days, our small house was taken over by clothes as they thawed and then sagged near the heating stove and eventually finished drying. Later they would be folded and put away or left for ironing the next day. Washday was finally over – at least for this week.

As I hurried to get to my special project, I realized how much easier my life is with modern appliances. And I also was struck with a sad appreciation of what it was like to be a wife and mother before those appliances existed. Most of all, I wished I could thank my mother for her hard work.

## *Columbine Activities*



CGHS Booth, History Camp, Colorado  
Arapahoe Community College

## *December Potluck*



Thank you, Connie Strandberg, for your fine work on the Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society newsletter for the past two years and for your assistance to me in preparing this January 2020 issue.

Becky Clark, Editor



**COLUMBINE GENEALOGICAL &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**

P. O. Box 2074

Centennial, CO 80161-2074

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

Est. 1976

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.

2nd & 3rd Tuesdays each month  
January through May and  
September through November

Board Meetings:

2nd Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

No meetings in June, July & August

**Location:** South Wing Entrance  
Lutheran Church of the Holy  
Spirit 6400 S. University Blvd.  
Centennial, Colorado

**Annual Dues:**

Individual - \$25.00

Individual & Spouse: \$35.00

**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 posted on the door of the church. *Please do not call the Church office.*

**Visit Columbine online at:**

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