



Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

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Summer 2021

Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

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**CGHS Website:**

<https://columbinegenealogy.com>

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## *Discovering How Great-Grandma Died*

By Connie Strandberg

One of my genealogy research problems has been to find the death date of my great grandmother, Mary Alta Hutchings McCafferty.

Mary was the mother of my Grandpa, Will McCafferty. Her husband, Andrew McCafferty, died when Grandpa was 16 months old. After her husband's death Mary took Grandpa, a toddler at the time, to live with her parents and siblings, the Hutchings family. Mary had five siblings, all of whom I have researched. The Hutchings and McCaffertys lived in southern Indiana.

My dad's brother, Bob, had inherited many old pictures from my McCafferty grandparents. Bob's widow was so good to share those pictures with me. On the back of one photo, someone had written, "Aunt Kate's Son." Kate was a sister of my great grandmother. The picture frame was stamped, Mason City, Illinois. Kate's married name was Hagan.

Using that picture clue, I located census records listing Kate Hagan in Mason County, Illinois. Looking at family trees on Ancestry.com, I found others who listed this Hagan family on their trees. One of those people, related to the Hagans, put me in touch with the descendants of Aunt Kate.

In the summer of 2008, I began corresponding with Dorothy, a great granddaughter of Aunt Kate. She had been researching her family for a long time.

In September that year, my husband and I attended a wedding in Chicago. As a side trip, we flew down to Peoria, Illinois, rented a car and arranged to meet my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, Dorothy. She

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## *Meetings at Columbine*

**Note:** The information listed below is our normal schedule and location, however due to current Covid-19 restrictions, until further notice, please see our website for meeting information.

[www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com)

### **Meeting Times:**

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

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

### *Thank You to Our Spring Program & Education Speakers!*



Richard Evans



Frank Francone



Kathy Tarullo



Michael Simbre

## *Program Previews*

By Sean McGuire

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**Becky Clark – Documenting Heirlooms & Family Memorabilia for Future Generations**

Learn creative ways to document your heirlooms so your family won't toss everything out.

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**Thomas McEntee – Did I Get Everything? Creating a Checklist for Genealogy Research**

Learn how to assemble a genealogy research checklist to take your genealogy to the next level by identifying research gaps and using genealogy networks and offline resources.



## *President's Message*

By Barbara Elliott

It's time for me to write an article for the Summer Newsletter and as the weather at this time is changeable, it's hard to think about a hot summer. I have been reflecting back on the last year and all the changes Columbine has had to make.

First, we have been attending our meetings via Zoom and that will continue as we go forward with possibly some hybrid meetings. We will continue doing the study groups throughout the summer months. We're hoping to put together some research questions that we can share to keep you interested in searching for your ancestors. Be sure to check the emails that Jean Ouellette sends out during the summer months as we will be adding new Special Interest Groups (SIG) to the two we already have. So if your interest lies somewhere else, please send me an email at [ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com), attention Barbara.

The Website Work Group is still researching the best platform to use to update/change our website, but we are getting closer to the end result. Nancy Reubert has been doing a lot of the work and she is learning more than she probably wants to know about websites. Also, five members of the Board attended the National Genealogical Society's "Focus on Societies" presentation on May 21<sup>st</sup> to learn better ways of keeping CGHS up-to-date in this ever changing world.

As you might expect, we are always looking for members to serve on the board and on committees. For the November election there are still two offices that need to be filled. These are the Education Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor.

1. The Education Coordinator sets the agenda to meet the educational needs of the membership, and organizes a couple of onsite classes at Bemis Public Library. A committee can be formed to help this person generate ideas for classes.
2. The Newsletter Editor collects articles for publishing in our quarterly newsletter and is assisted by a proofreader and a desktop publisher. Many of our members contribute articles, websites of importance and book reviews to help the Editor fill the newsletter with interesting items.

The Board is always there to help the person that decides to run for either of these two very important positions. Being a part of the Board is a great way in which to voice your opinion as to how CGHS moves forward into the future. Your ideas and talents help make this organization great as we move toward 50 years of incorporation as a non-profit interested in genealogical and historical content.

# CGHS



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS 2021

#### **President**

Barbara Elliott

#### **1st Vice President - Programs**

Sean McGuire

#### **2nd Vice President - Publicity**

Jean Ouellette

#### **3rd Vice President – Bookstore**

Nancy Reubert

#### **Education Coordinator**

Ann Lisa Pearson

#### **Recording Secretary**

Ginger Van Zyl

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Susan Hollis

#### **Treasurer**

Margaret Schmidt

#### **Membership Coordinator**

Judy Garner

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Becky Clark

### APPOINTED COMMITTEES

#### **Acquisitions**

Jean Adams

#### **Auditing**

Pat Jacobsen

#### **Bylaws**

Bob Jenkins

#### **Bulletin Board/Historian**

Pat Campbell

#### **Equipment**

Chuck Towne

#### **Nominating**

Barbara Wilson

#### **Photographer**

Becky Clark

#### **Special Projects**

Open Position

#### **Hospitality**

Karen Bialkowski

#### **Website Editor**

Julie McKemy

#### **Colorado Council Representative**

Stan Harms

#### **Mailing**

Shirley Jenkins

#### **Facebook Editor**

Nancy Reubert

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*Think about being an important part of this organization by deciding to run for a board position or even serving on a committee. Your voice will be heard and, as always, new blood serving in a position helps keep YOUR organization fresh with new ideas. If a committee hasn't been formed in which you have an interest, please let me know. There are plenty of wonderful opportunities for serving where your talents can be used.*

In closing, I wish everyone a very fun, safe summer and hopefully some of those long lost ancestors will be found. I know I will be trying to find mine and fill in some of those blanks with stories of their lives. Good Luck!!

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### Great-Grandma cont'd from Page 1

recommended a restaurant in the middle of cornfields near Easton, in Mason County, as a meeting place. The drive was a challenge since we had tall corn on all sides. Had we not used cell phones, I'm convinced we would still be trying to find our way out of what seemed to be a corn maze.

When I first saw Dorothy, I knew she was a kindred spirit. She was crossing the parking lot at the restaurant with an armload of notebooks.

The restaurant was getting ready to close after a busy Sunday lunch crowd. They allowed us to sit at a couple of tables to get acquainted and to see what Dorothy had in those notebooks. As we talked, Dorothy pulled an old letter from one of the pages. It was dated 27 February, 1898. The writer of the letter was my Grandma McCafferty (Will's wife). The purpose of the letter was to inform Aunt Kate of the death of her sister, Mary Alta.

Mary had died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1898 at age 49.

What a find! After several years of searching for records, here I was in a cornfield in Illinois reading my Grandma's letter, written 110 years before.

Family lore is that Mary died of breast cancer after being hit in the chest by a pump handle. I also looked up the life expectancy for women in the late 1800's. It was 49.

Quoting Grandma's letter: "Dear Aunt it is a sad letter I write you this time for mother left us Thursday evening at 7 o'clock; she died so easy just went to sleep and knew no more. Will could not believe it, said she had fainted so we (two of the neighbors and myself) rubbed her while he went for the Dr. but it was of no use. The Dr. said it struck her heart and that was the last; She had not been feeling well as usual for over a week, but we did not think she was that bad.

She ate some peanuts and chewed some wax about an hour before she died. We buried her yesterday morning as the Dr. said to keep her no longer. Brother Behardt preached the funeral at the house."

Later in the letter Grandma said she was unable to go the burial due to the recent birth of her third child, a daughter. I can just picture what Mary's burial would have been like if Grandma had brought two toddlers and an infant to the service.

Old letters are chock full of family information!

Dorothy and I continue to share photos and new information as we research extended Hutchings family ties.

Mary Alta Hutchings  
McCafferty



## *Education Opportunities*

By Ann Lisa Pearson

**Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – To be announced.**

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021 - To be announced.**

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## *A Note about NARA and Malcolm H. Stern*

By Bob Jenkins

On the Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society's membership form there is a place for the dues, a place for a contribution to the Book Fund, and a place for a contribution to the Stern-NARA Gift Fund. It was the longest time before I knew any more about the Stern-NARA Gift Fund than that it benefited NARA. In 1981-1984 when the federal government was considering cutting back the funding for NARA a rabbi-genealogist, Malcolm H. Stern, led the effort to move NARA from government funding to private funding. This was accomplished by the National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984. (Public Law No: 98-497)

For more information see:

Malcolm Henry Stern (1915-1994) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm\\_H.\\_Stern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_H._Stern)

Stern-NARA <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/malcolm-h-stern-nara-gift-fund/>

National Archives and Records Administration <https://www.archives.gov>

For some genealogy tips that everyone should follow, you can read Rabbi Stern's *Ten Commandments for Genealogists* at: <https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/mstern.txt>

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## *The Salt Lake Family History Library is reopening July 6th.*

Read the details in this recent blog post: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/family-history-library-2021-remodel/>

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## *Congratulations on over 20 Years with Columbine*

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Welcome New Member

Joan Hollingsworth
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Marylee Hagen (Mary Lee) was born and grew up in South Dakota. She has a BA & MA in Education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. She taught part time for Littleton Schools and private tutored for 40 years. She has two grown children and five grandchildren.

After a trip abroad in 1995, Marylee started researching her mother's Irish and father's Norwegian ancestry. She joined Columbine in 1996 (as Mary Lee Dorsey). In 2001 she visited the Hagen farms in Kristiansand, Norway and in 2006 she met living cousins in County Kerry Ireland. Marylee has given Irish and Norwegian programs for CGHS.



## Book Review

By Jean Larson Adams

### ***The Chester Creek Murders (A Venator Cold Case Series Book 1)***

**By Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

*The Chester Creek Murders* is a new series by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. This first book is subtitled “*A Venator Cold Case.*” Or as the book cover notes: “*An Investigative Genetic Genealogy Mystery.*” Those two phrases should have you hooked on wanting to read this book if you have been studying DNA. It certainly grabbed my attention.

The very first page takes place in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 1, 2020. That should be another thing that grabs your attention. All avid family researchers have either been there or want to go someday. As Goodwin takes the reader through the process that a commercial company named Venator goes through to help law enforcement solve cold cases, he takes us on a tour of Salt Lake City (restaurants, bus lines, the Family History Library, etc.)

Madison Scott-Barnhart, or Maddie, is the owner/founder of Venator, a company which works with DNA to help solve crimes. She is not a complex character, but rather a forty-two-year-old mother of two. What makes her unique is a husband who disappeared mysteriously five years before the story begins. His disappearance is not explained in the book, so I am sure that Goodwin will tell us more in the books that follow.

The story involves two of a 146 unsolved cold-case homicide cases for Delaware County Pennsylvania. Detective Clayton Tyler is intrigued by the six volumes of information from 1982-1983 about the Chester Creek Murders. He remembered whispered stories from his school days about an elderly high school janitor chopping up victims and throwing body parts in the creek. Impossible for a frail, older man like the janitor, but possible for a younger person -- a person who seems to have escaped imprisonment for 38 years. These homicides determine Detective Tyler's desire to fly across the country to present them to the firm Venator for possible assistance in solving them.

Maddie Barnhart's team consists of Kenyatta, Becky, and Hudson. The company uses Family Tree DNA to see if there are enough matches to make it possible to build a tree for the perpetrator. When they come up with 1,971 names that shared some DNA with the murderer, they agree to take on the case.

I learned some new terms while reading this book. One is “phenotype,” or the evolving science of EVCs – externally visible characteristics. According to team member Hudson's scientific training there are 677,864 pieces of code, but only 41 that might predict hair color, eye color and skin color. Did you know that GEDmatch has a homozygosity tool for determining if the ancestors are related to each other in a significant way?

Team member Becky searches that database and Kenyatta determines that there are seven surnames or clusters readily identifiable for their research. There are other genetic terms that I'm sure you will recognize and relate to your own DNA testing.

If you like a good mystery, you will enjoy this book. If you would like to know more about investigative genetic genealogy, you will be hooked by chapter three. There is even some romance in the characters' lives as they go about solving this case. All this happens in one month, just before Covid 19 shuts down Maddie's office and everyone heads for home.

I wonder if in further books Goodwin will write about our stay-at-home orders and how this team will work from home and meet on Zoom calls? Interesting thought. I look forward to the further series.

## Research in North Carolina

By Ann Lisa Pearson

I have researched in North Carolina for many years and have been a member of the North Carolina Genealogical Society for about 20 years. Their quarterly journal the *NCGS Journal* has been a great source for researching my ancestors as well as identifying many great resources. The first journal for 2021, Volume 47, Number 1, Jan-Feb-Mar 2021 is just one example of how helpful it can be to researchers.

This issue highlights “*Religions and Denominational Records*.” The articles are illustrations of the various types of records from specific churches in North Carolina and include images of 48 crosses and symbols of various world religions.

These quarterly journals are valuable to those who are researching the areas mentioned in them. They also include book reviews and every issue is indexed.

I have found this journal to be very helpful in researching many of my families.

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## Public Acquisitions

By Jean Larson Adams

**Love Your Library** - CGHS has been a supporter of Bemis Public Library and Denver Public Library genealogical collections for decades through book and media donations. This year we reached out to the Englewood Public Library offering to increase its genealogy and family research collection through donations from the CGHS Public Acquisitions fund. Englewood Public Library has a smaller area for reference materials than the other two libraries but serves a vibrant community.

Denver Public Library has limited access to its collections in 2021- 2022, so the addition of materials to neighborhood libraries has become more important. We donated the following to Englewood:

*Practical Guide to Swedish Church Records*, by Geoff Froberg Morris. - *How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records*, by Harold A. Henderson. - *Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher*, by Drew Smith. - *The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide* by David A. Fryxell. - *Census Substitutes & State Census Records, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, Set of 5 vols.

For more information contact Englewood Public Library, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO 80110.  
<https://www.engagewoodco.gov/parks-recreation-library-golf/library>

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## Columbine Special Interest Groups

**The North Carolina Special Interest Group** will continue to meet throughout the summer months on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 am via Zoom. If you need help researching in North Carolina, please come with questions. Barbara Elliott will share some of the early tax records in the region and maybe an early map or two.

**The Research Help Group** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month and this will continue throughout the summer at 1 pm via Zoom. If you have any questions regarding where to find a record, or what can be found in a certain area, please come. We are here to help you with your research, wherever it may take you. We often have about six people, but more are welcome. Contact Ann Lisa Pearson if you'd like to attend.



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

P. O. Box 2074

Centennial, CO 80161-2074

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

Est. 1976

Meetings: 1:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays each month  
January through May and  
September through November

Board Meetings:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 9:30 am

No meetings in June, July, and  
August

Holiday Event,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December

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

**Annual Dues:**  
Individual - \$25.00  
Couples - \$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:  
[www.ColumbineGenealogy.com/](http://www.ColumbineGenealogy.com/)

Find news updates at:  
[www.Facebook.com/ColumbineGenealogy/](https://www.Facebook.com/ColumbineGenealogy/)

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