



Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

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Spring 2021

Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

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### **CGHS Website**

<https://columbinegenealogy.com>

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## *Wall Busting*

By Maggie Schmidt

Tax records were instrumental for me in breaking down a brick wall that has eluded me for years. I've been searching for my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather with a common surname of Miller. His son, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, James, was married in 1821 in Cabell County, now West Virginia. I knew nothing of James prior to his marriage date. There were two potential Miller families in the 1820 census, but I also thought it was possible that James had recently moved there in order to be married. He may have followed his wife-to-be since her family had moved there after the 1820 census, and shortly before their marriage. When I tackled the tax records in Cabell County, I never expected to find so much information.

Early tax records provide more information than it first appears, especially if records for multiple years have survived from the county that you are researching. Taxes were based on wealth – slaves, horses, mules, cattle, carriages, stud horses, watches, furniture, and even icehouses. Most farmers in the early 1800's did not have much wealth. Many were charged taxes based on their owning only one horse (\$.13 each) and nothing else. Regardless of wealth, each taxpayer was asked to state how many males over 16 were in the household. No additional taxes were charged, and perhaps the reason for the question is so the county could predict how many additional taxpayers there would be in the future, when a 16 year old reached adulthood or married.

When a man stated on his tax entry that there were two males over 16 in the household, the following year or two, a new male, his son, showed up on the tax roles by name. At that time, the father's tax information then stated that there was

Cont'd on Page 4

## *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

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## *Program Previews*

By Anita Burbank-Jenkins

We are happy to announce that Sean McGuire will be taking over as 1st Vice President of Programs and our program committee has planned some great presentations for the rest of this year which will help Sean on his way in this new position. These include presentations on Using State Resources, the Bataan Death March, Documenting Your Family Heirlooms, Creating a Checklist for Genealogy Research, and some insights on "the Dark Side of Denver." Please welcome Sean to this position and join us for these upcoming programs!

### **Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

#### **Richard Evans - "Using State Resources"**

Richard will talk about free resources you can access online from home, including the Stern-NARA Fund and Fold3, as well as some state and county sites.

### **Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

#### **Frank Francone – "The Bataan Death March"**

Frank is a CGHS member who served in the Philippines in 1946-1947. He was not a part of the march, but served at the receiving end of those who were. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his work in the Philippines; the highest honor bestowed on civilians.

### **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

#### **Annual Potluck – Join us on Zoom to salivate over the items we could have brought to a potluck!**

Members will share the importance of gathering information from collateral relatives to learn more about their families.

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## *Educational Opportunities*

By Ann Lisa Pearson

### **Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Kathy Tarullo – "Goggling for Genealogy"**

Kathy has been active in genealogy for many years and graduated from BYU with a degree in Family History. She will present tips on the various uses of Google in genealogical research.



## *President's Message*

By Barbara Elliott

As we go into spring and also our snowiest months, we continue to have our meetings on Zoom. We are averaging around 40 participants at the meetings and hopefully we will start getting a few more of our members to join our monthly meetings. Jean Ouellette sends out the Zoom links twice a month on the Mondays before our scheduled meetings, so please look for those links. If anyone has trouble getting into these meetings, please let someone on the Board know so we can help you. Jean also sends out around ten links to guests that have shown interest in our programs. So this has also been a plus.

Your Board has been working hard behind the scenes trying to master all this new technology. We have quite a few work groups up and running, but could use volunteers to help us. Also we are still looking for volunteers to fill the 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Programs chair and the 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Bookstore chair through the end of this year. We have a nominating chair, Barbara Wilson, who will be calling and asking if you would consider filling a Board position in the November 2021 election. These are two year terms and there are plenty of people already on the board that are willing to help you adjust to a leadership role.

One of the items the Zoom Work Group is considering is how to continue using Zoom after the church opens and we can meet in-person. This is a way for some of our members who don't drive to continue to feel a part of Columbine.

Our Website Work Group is researching different web hosting platforms for our website. Those volunteers are learning a lot about different platforms and what would be the best for Columbine and the databases we have.

These work groups are doing well and the thought is to continue using work groups to help keep our society strong. If anyone is interested in joining a work group or heading one, please let me know. Our strategic plan is listed on the website under "Members!" - Report to the Board. Please read this over and if you can help in any area, please let someone on the Board know.

Ann Lisa Pearson sent out a survey for everyone to fill out. This survey will help with deciding which education programs will be of most use to you, our members. Also if you need help in a particular area or with a software program, note that on the survey as well.

Cont'd on next page

# 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

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Jean Adams

#### **Auditing**

Pat Jacobsen

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Bob Jenkins

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

Pat Campbell

#### **Equipment**

Chuck Towne

#### **Nominating**

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#### **Photographer**

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#### **Special Projects**

Open Position

#### **Hospitality**

Karen Bialkowski

#### **Website Editor**

Julie McKemy

#### **Colorado Council Representative**

Stan Harms

#### **Mailing**

Shirley Jenkins

#### **Facebook Editor**

Nancy Reubert

Your Board is here to help you be the best researcher that you can be, so we need to know what you are most interested in learning. To make and keep Columbine the best in the area, we need you. We look forward to you renewing your membership, filling out the survey and returning it to Ann Lisa, attending our Zoom meetings, and in general letting your Board know what you would like to see and learn.

There are genealogical societies that are using Zoom to help their members with different software programs. Not everyone uses the same software; we can set up a meeting for people that are having issues with FamilyTree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, Roots Magic, etc. and they can meet via Zoom and get help.

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### **Wall Busting, cont'd from Page 1**

now only one male over 16 in his household. So the father and son were then both taxpayers. This gives a loose father-son connection, but also provides the name of the son. One can infer approximate ages for a father and son. If several years of tax lists are available, a second or third son's names could be learned. With names, other reference information becomes more useful, especially census data. A son who turned 16 in the 1820's would likely live until after the 1850 census, when more family information became available on censuses.

There are many other ways to analyze the data on tax lists. The entries are listed alphabetically and by date, and sometimes give a reference to their home location, perhaps mentioning a nearby creek. Family members or neighbors may decide to go to the county seat on the same day to pay their taxes. So people who pay on the same date might be related, regardless of the surname. With the same surname, a relationship becomes more obvious unless it is a common name. However, someone probably always had to stay home to take care of chores and care for livestock, so patterns are not always consistent. Using all this information, though, can tell a researcher about neighbors and family structures. It's also possible to learn an ancestor's possible death date, when they disappear from the tax lists.

In Virginia during the early 1800's, formation of new counties occurred frequently. An ancestor probably didn't move, but the name of the county where he lived might have changed. To track him, it may be necessary to analyze tax lists from different counties. To understand the dates for new counties being formed, I use <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~george/countyformations/virginiaformationmaps.html>. This site gives a map of the county name changes, as well as dates and other information.

As a result of all of the above approaches, I found that my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather was William Miller, who had lived in Cabell County (earlier Kanawha County) since his marriage in 1795. I also learned that his sons are James (my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather), Frederick (also known through a DNA match), and Henry. My brick wall was demolished!

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### ***Do You Use the Internet Archive?***

The Internet Archive has millions of books and resources on history and genealogy for loan or download. Their genealogy collection contains passenger lists, census records, various state marriage and death records and more. This is a valuable resource that everyone should explore. If you can't find something on Google Books, try the Internet Archive. They often have books that even Google doesn't have. And if you do use the Archive, donate! This is a valuable non-profit providing untold wonders. They deserve our support!  
<https://archive.org/details/genealogy?tab=collection>

## *Welcome New Members*

Steve Benn – Marilyn Edwards-Roberts - Gretchen Ricehill, Alison Gibbens (Returning Member)

**Steve Benn** – I have been working on Ancestry for about 10 years. My daughter gave me an Ancestry membership for Christmas and my good neighbor Connie Strandberg stoked my interest. I have been fortunate to have great resources, so my primary lines are deep. On my maternal grandmother's side my lineage dates to my 10<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, William Brewster of Mayflower fame and goes even further back through the Lathrops to 1200 and to my 22<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather of Lowthroe, Yorkshire, England. While the rest of my lineage is not as deep, I can trace all my lines to at least a third great-grandfather and to strong ties to Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia, England, Scotland and Ireland.

**Gretchen Ricehill** – I am a Denver native currently working as the Assistant Director of the Glenwood Springs Community Development Dept. My primary areas of genealogical research include early 1700's to mid-1800's New England (primarily Massachusetts and New York); pre-1720's Northern Ireland; and pre-1830's Germany. I am also helping my husband, Ernest Ricehill research and map his Winnebago and Omaha tribal history.

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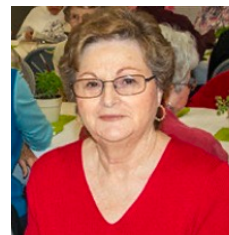
## *Congratulations to Our 20 and 40 Year Members*

At the March 9, 2021 meeting we honored Columbine members who have been with the organization for 20 and 40 years. Each member received a certificate and was thanked by President Barb Elliott.

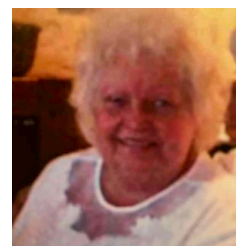
### *20 Year Members*

**Sandi Klein** has devoted many years to serving Columbine. She was President from 2007-2010 and prior to that was Columbine's delegate to the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies and from 2003 to 2005 she was Co-3rd Vice President, Ways & Means. Sandi lived in the Littleton area for many years graduating from Littleton High School.

She helped with Columbine's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning and worked on the expansion of our website databases. She also worked on the Bylaws Review Committee, Beginning Genealogy Classes the 2010 group research trip to Salt Lake City and on the annual used book sale. She has always been a great influence on the organization.



**Evelyn Marston Mullen** was born in New Jersey and grew up during the depression. In 1941 the family moved to California and later to Nevada. In 1945 Evelyn married Earl Mullen. They had three children and moved on to Colorado. She worked as front desk receptionist at Pinehurst Country Club, retiring after 42 years. Her desire for family history and genealogy started in 1993 when she found a drawer full of old family photos at her mother's house and over the years did research in the Netherlands and Ireland.



## *40 Year Members*

**Mary Lou King** says “Columbine is an excellent genealogical society, and I have enjoyed being a part of it for 40 years.”

She held about every job on the Columbine Board in her forty years of membership -- President, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor, among others. She says the hardest one was Vice President due to the challenge of finding speakers.

Mary Lou has many happy memories of Columbine. She traveled to Salt Lake with the group several times, enjoying research at the Family History Library and getting to know members. She also attended NGS conferences in Seattle and San Diego with fellow members.

She volunteered on the church records project and the marriage record project at the Colorado State Archives. She and her late husband, Ronald Earl King, were also involved in the CGS Computer Interest Group.

**Ann F. Andersen** – I am Ann Ward (Freehafer) Andersen. I am a Hoosier by birth, upbringing and education. I became interested in genealogy in 1965 when my father received a letter requesting information about our surname. Since this was ‘bc” (before computers) I spent a lot of time at the old Denver Public Library, wrote many letters and was able to go to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City often, since my husband was an airline pilot.

I have published five family histories and still have one I would like to finish, but it will be a large one on early New England and goes back to Charlemagne.



My Columbine membership has provided me with much pleasure and knowledge and although I do not attend regularly any more I have many friends I met there and see often.

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## *Call for Newsletter Articles*

Tell us what you’ve been doing in your genealogy quest this past year. From something short to something 1-2 pages long, we’d love to hear what members have been up to!

Here are some ideas.

- Trip you took looking for ancestors’ homes or graves.
- Short report on a “breakthrough” you made.
- New DNA cousins you’ve met.
- Sketch of a “black sheep” (or famous) ancestor you found.
- How you pinpointed an ancestor with truly common name.
- How you have managed to organize (or not organize) those boxes of paper and photos.

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## *Did You Know?*

- Did you know? CGHS has been active for almost 50 years.
- Did you know? The CGHS newsletter has been published nearly every quarter since 1975.
- Did you know? That since 2012 CGHS has donated approximately 212 new books, 18 used books from our “used book table” and 301 used magazines and journals to Denver Public Library and Bemis Library, and other library sites in the area.

## *Tell Your Friends*

Columbine has a long history of members who really enjoy genealogy, socializing and sharing with other members at our twice-monthly, in-person meetings. Although we have been meeting “virtually” for the time being, once we get back to in-person meetings, we look forward to sharing our experiences, research and comradery with one another. (As well as to sharing real potlucks and cookies!)

However, this “virtual” experience has not been all bad. We have learned a lot of innovative things and are exploring more opportunities to reach out in other ways to encourage new membership. Our website is being revamped, and we are looking at ways to encourage new membership outside our current area. We are exploring continuing the “Zoom experience” even when we go back to meeting in-person.

Some members have attended the Zoom meetings who we haven’t seen in a long time. These are members who have moved elsewhere or who just can’t attend an in-person meetings any longer. We are happy to see them back now that they can join us on Zoom!

Many genealogical and historical societies are expanding their membership, their programs and education virtually and we, too, are exploring those options.

We want to continue our traditions and add new ones. We encourage members to “tell their friends” about us. To help you in doing that, here are some reminders of our traditions and the fun we have shared since 1973. Let’s look back on what makes us unique!

1. Organized trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, to the Denver branch of the National Archives in Broomfield, and to the Denver Public Library to research together.
2. Special projects – Published books on four early Littleton churches, Colorado Territorial Civil War Volunteers Records, two early Arapahoe County marriage records, and Littleton Cemetery records.
3. Beginning and intermediate genealogy classes.
4. Seminars with nationally recognized expert speakers.
5. Columbine Book Store – a place for members to purchase genealogy books.
6. Book donations to local libraries.
7. Open houses and research nights at Bemis Library.
8. Continuing help from experienced researchers.
9. Social events to share our stories and ideas.
10. Group education to learn and share research methods, documentation, maps, Internet research, restoring and dating old photos, researching various states and foreign countries, DNA and many more subjects.

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## *Public Acquisitions*

**By Jean Adams**

For February, the “Love Your Library” promotion was emailed to members.

Karin Martin at Englewood Public Library has been contacted to see what CGHS could do to help them improve their collection. The library is small and limited in space but could use some basic books, particularly on researching countries such as Ireland, England, Sweden, etc. They do not have a subscription to Ancestry for their patron’s use. The other libraries in our area have an Ancestry subscription that a patron can access from home with a library card. In some libraries they also have My Heritage and Newspaper.com. I plan to continue to work with Englewood Public Library to see how we can assist.

## *Bookstore News*

By Nancy Reubert

The Columbine bookstore was asleep for most of last year due to the pandemic. Starting in January, though, we began selling books again at our Zoom meetings. I have arranged for you to pick up your purchases through me. The list of books is available on the website at [www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com) and includes a phone number and email address, so you can make purchases.

Additionally, we are looking for a replacement bookstore manager at the end of this year. I have run the bookstore for six years, and am ready to move on to new projects. The entire bookstore fits in two office boxes, and all the accounting is set up in pre-filled Excel spreadsheets to make it easy.

I'll be happy to help the new bookstore person for the first year, including the procedures and advice on how to pick books for the store. Let's keep this great benefit vibrant for our members!

### *Membership Renewal Reminder*

Have you renewed your membership for 2021? We miss you on our Zoom meetings & activities!

If you haven't renewed yet, please get your dues in soon or this could be your last newsletter and we'd hate to see you go! Here's the website info where you can find the renewal form.

<https://columbinegenealogy.com/donations-fees/>

### *The Writers' Group Wants You!*

The CGHS Writers' Group meets via Zoom each month on the third Wednesday at 10:00 am. The purpose of the group is to encourage each other to write about our families and ancestors. We know that by compiling our work into interesting stories with pictures, our relatives living today can enjoy and share in the fascinating facts from the past that we have unearthed.

In the group meetings we share a brief summary of the articles we have written.

The pieces are distributed a few days before the meeting among members of the group to be read at home. During the meeting the author presents his/her work, and can ask for suggestions for improvement and for constructive criticism.

Would you like to join us and try your hand at writing and critiquing within a group? If newer authors choose not to share their work yet, they are still invited to attend, watch how the group works, and decide if and when they wish to share a story. Everyone is invited and welcomed.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 21st, at 10:00 am. Please contact Jean Adams in order to receive a Zoom invitation at [jadams31216@gmail.com](mailto:jadams31216@gmail.com). Questions about the group? Contact Anita Jenkins at [aebjenk@gmail.com](mailto:aebjenk@gmail.com).

NOTE: During the pandemic period Writers' Group meets on the day and time listed above, but once we go back to meeting in person we may go back to the schedule listed on page 2 under "Meetings at Columbine." We will announce any changes, once we go back to in-person meetings.



## *Using FamilySearch “Images”*

By Barbara Elliott

This is a relatively new research tool from FamilySearch.org to look up historical images and documents that have not yet been indexed, so it's not possible to search by name. You will have to look through the images manually, like you used to when researching films.

To use “Images” to sign into FamilySearch and click on the “Search” tab. Click on “Images” and a new page comes up showing you how many historical documents are being constantly downloaded into FamilySearch files.

Type in the area in which you want to search, and you will see a drop-down list of suggestions, which you can accept or leave your query as you typed it. Then click “Search Image Groups.”

You will then see what documents have been digitized for the area in which you are searching. If you receive too many hits, you can go back to the first page and click “Show More Search Options” to add a year or range of years. However, I would recommend you wait until you see what records come up.

You will need to search these records image-by-image, just like looking on a film reader. There may be lots of images on a film or just a few, but this is well worth the effort to fill in your family tree.

Also, if you have your family tree on FamilySearch, you can click on the “Attach to Family Tree” button at the top left to attach the record. Otherwise to download the record to your computer, right click your mouse and choose “Save As.”

Be sure to check this research tool out and have fun researching.

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## *Rootstech 2021, A New & Exciting Experience*

Rootstech this year was a little different than in the past due to our current world situation, but in many ways this made it more diverse and inclusive. In the past it has attracted tens of thousands of people. This year's online conference attracted more than ever before and went on 24-7 over three days!

There was a “Guide Me” section that allowed you to select various sessions on similar topics and tutorials on how to have the best experience. The presentations on the “Main Stage” provided insights into the lives of people all over the world and the many “sessions” were short, but informative and were taught in many languages. There was an “Expo Hall” where you could visit virtual booths for the many companies around the world that provide a genealogy experience. And even though this wasn't in-person, you still had the opportunity to connect with and chat with other attendees as well as find your relatives via chat rooms and individual chats.

Best of all you can still view these sessions and activities anytime. Go to the Rootstech website at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> and sign in with your FamilySearch account. All sessions will be available until just before the 2022 conference.

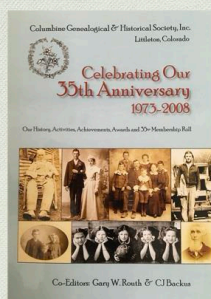
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## *Website Revamp News*

By Nancy Reubert

A CGHS committee continues to work on plans for a major upgrade to our website later this year. It has been six or seven years since it has had a revamp, and there are newer features we would like to have, as well as a more colorful look and the ability to find information quickly. The group is still looking for some additional technical advice and assistance. If you can help, contact Nan Reubert at [nannygoat@texandnan.com](mailto:nannygoat@texandnan.com).

# *Member Fun Over the Years!*



Symposium 2010

2008, 2010



Book Sales, Authors & Poets 2011



2011



RootsTech 2013

2013, 2015

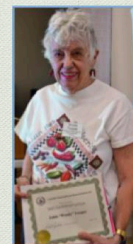


Western Welcome Week's  
Festival Day, 2015



Writers' Group

2016, 2017



Anniversaries



Ancestral Stories



Show n' Tell



2018



We Appreciate You!



Goofing around 2019



2020 "Zoom"  
World



Happy Members!



Sign In Please



Chris's Fleishman's Famous  
Jello Salad



December Potluck 2019



Virtual Holiday Party

## ***Thank You to Our Recent Program Speakers!***



Carol Darrow



Marilyn Elrod



Megan Koepsell



Marilyn Edwards-Roberts



Judy Fambrough-Billingsley



Ron Floberg

## ***Columbine 2021 Board of Directors***





**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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