



# *Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter*

Vol. 49, No. 2

Second Quarter – April, May, June

Spring 2022

## **Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter**

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**Editorial Note:** This quarter's lead story was presented to the Columbine Writers' Group in December 2021 and inspired a lively discussion, bringing back many memories for group members.

Although this is of a holiday memory, I think it can be enjoyed year-round, and I hope our readers will like it as much as the Writers' Group did. The minute I read the bowl's description in the second paragraph, I knew exactly what it looked like, because my mother had the same bowl.

We had quite a Zoom "show and tell" as our members were inspired to go get one of their own bowls to hold up to the camera to share their memories of this popular Pyrex product. Maybe some of you will recognize it as well and appreciate this story. Becky Clark, Editor.

## *Grandma's Yellow Bowl*

By Chris Yaros

Growing up, I loved going to my grandma's house on Jackson Street in Gary, Indiana. For the holidays, she would make nut and poppy seed rolls that melted in your mouth. The horn cookies were filled with apricot, raspberry and a nut date filling and rolled in powdered sugar. I could never sneak extra cookies, because the telltale powdered sugar trail on the front of my clothes always gave me away. Although these baked goods were very traditional to our Slavic heritage, nobody could bake them like grandma.

My grandmother, Anna Mekola, had a large yellow bowl that she would always use when baking her Christmas cookies. This bowl also was brought out when making her nut and poppy seed dough, noodles, and dumplings. It was a large yellow bowl by Pyrex that sat prominently in the cabinet with her baking items. As a little girl, I believed that the bowl seemed to have magical powers. My grandmother always made better

**Cont'd on Page 4**



## *Meetings at Columbine*

**Meeting Times: (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)**Program Meetings ..... 1:00 pm - 2nd Tuesday of the month **In-Person & via Zoom**Education Meetings ..... 1:00 pm – 3rd Tuesday of the month **via Zoom**

Board of Directors Meetings ..... 9:00 am - 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June, July &amp; Dec.)

Columbine Writers' Group ..... Meets via Zoom at 10 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**Meeting Place:** Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E Dry Creek Rd., Centennial, CO 80112For more information about Columbine Meetings, visit our website: [www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com)

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## *Program Previews*

By Sean McGuire

**April 12, 2022****1:00 – 3:00 pm – In Person and On Zoom****Jonathan Fairchild – An Overview of the Homestead Laws and their Application to Genealogy Research.**

Jonathan Fairchild is the National Park Service historian at Homestead National Monument in Nebraska and is dedicated to telling the story of the American homesteader and sharing some of what they went through.

**May 10, 2022****1:00 – 3:00 pm - In Person and On Zoom****Jeffrey B. Miller – The Commission for Relief**

This commission, located in Belgium, was charged with saving millions from starvation in World War I. Mr. Miller's passion for this topic began with his grandparents, who were involved in this effort. He has written three books on this subject and will share the history of this commission.

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## *Education Previews*

By Jean Adams

**Please Note: All Education Programs will be via Zoom, unless otherwise announced.****April 19, 2022****1:00 – 3:00 pm via Zoom****Susie Wickman - Mapping Your Family History**

Susie Wickman is an experienced genealogist, blog writer and speaker and will show us how to use various mapping tools to solve problems and enrich your family stories and history.

**May 17, 2022****1:00 – 3:00 pm****There will be no education meeting this month.**





## President's Message

By Barbara Elliott

In January, Jean Adams held a beginning genealogy class at Bemis Public Library that gave Columbine 15 new members. I would like to welcome these new members and hope that many will continue to join us via Zoom and at our hybrid meetings. As members, we have a few perks that I think need to be repeated here. We have a Writers' Group that meets monthly to share our family stories, we have mentoring possibilities to help you with specific subjects, and members are allowed to use our Zoom account for things like family meetings and genealogy sharing. Please make use of these perks as they can help further your research. Just contact one of the Board members with your request as we are there to help our members.

As members of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) there are webinars available for us to view. To see these webinars, go to: [ngsgenealogy.org/events](https://ngsgenealogy.org/events) and scroll through the listings. The NGS Conference will be held in Sacramento, California 24-28 May 2022. If anyone is interested in attending, be sure to check this info out.

In the past couple of months, I've been cleaning out a lot of paper copies I have made in the past. I have been entering the information into my software program and disposing of items I no longer need. I have set aside the mornings just to do genealogy research, and I have found that I am getting a lot more done since I need to stay on track in this timeframe. So, my suggestion to some of our newer members is to make a schedule for research and stick to it. Go through what you have, make a list of what you want to find and try to keep on track with that list. It is so easy to get distracted while working on your ancestors that you can find yourself just spinning your wheels.

I have been discovering more about the family lines that I have been stuck on in the past. Connecting some of those siblings to the correct families has been a challenge, since in the late 1700's and early 1800's they all used the same names. I decided to use a spreadsheet, which is not my forte, but it is helping me get organized on those families. Maybe in a couple of months, I'll have these families in the right order and will be able to progress the lines back a little further.

There is a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah in the works for the end of September. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Plaza, which is next to the Family History Library. If you are interested, contact Ann Lisa Pearson for all the information. Our publicity chairperson will also be sending out information on this trip.

I hope to see everyone at our hybrid and Zoom meetings soon. As always, we don't meet during the summer months, but if you are having trouble researching and need help, get in touch with Jean Adams or me.

## CGHS



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**Grandma's Yellow Bowl, cont'd from Page 1**

cookies, noodles, and dough than my own mother. I was convinced the bowl must have contributed to the process.

At one time, my Uncle Bob had talked grandma into making noodles which she would sell at the mill to workers. She would make large batches which would lay over her entire dining room table to dry out before packaging them up. Grandma did that for a while before deciding it was too much trouble and stopped doing it.

My mother didn't have a yellow bowl like grandma's. I told her we should buy one, thinking that might help mom's baking skills. Mother told me nothing would help her. As the years passed, I would go over to my grandma's house when it was time to do the baking. I would help as much as she would let me as I watched and learned her baking tricks. The dough for the horn cookies required a certain temperature when preparing the cookies. We would roll the dough out so thin, that it took much concentration not to rip it while folding each cookie and transferring it to the baking sheet. The nut and poppy seed rolls were an event in themselves. It was my job to sit with the grinder and grind all the walnuts by hand. All the fillings like the raspberry, apricot and poppy seed were a particular brand that I still order to this day when baking these items. Solo is the brand name.

Grandma had stopped baking by the time she died in 1985 and my mother inherited the yellow Pyrex bowl. Thanks to the magic of the bowl, her noodles got better, but not the cookies. By this time, I was living in Colorado with my family. My mother would lovingly bake us these cookies. That has been the longstanding tradition in my family. My kids loved the cookies and didn't know the difference, only I did.



I researched the Pyrex bowl. It is #404 in yellow, made from 1945 - 1949. In 2015, Pyrex celebrated 100 years of making all kinds of bowls for cooking. There is even a museum with the bowls on display.

When my mother passed on in 2002, I inherited the magic yellow bowl. I told my two granddaughters, Paige and Petra, that I now had the magic of the bowl. They asked who would eventually get the bowl. I told them that their mother, Lisa, is next in line. Over the last few years, Lisa has started making cookies with me and her daughters. I don't know if the bowl has any magical powers to make delicious cookies, but all our friends love my cookies. I hope that the next two generations of our family bakers can continue to enjoy the magic of the bowl to maintain the tradition of our family recipes.

During the holiday season, the best part of making the cookies is sharing them with family and friends. This tradition helps me to keep the memory of my mother and grandmother alive in our hearts (and stomachs). It's the traditions of the holidays that really make it special.





## *A Call From My 'Cuz'*

By Joyce Burke Lohse

My favorite holiday tradition is sending and receiving Christmas cards. The list is smaller now, but still a source of joy and surprises. I also enjoy spending holiday time revisiting family history, and organizing photos and stories to share.

I was delighted to receive a letter from my cousin Pete. How long had it been ... many years since we had last been in touch! My 'cuz' and his wife live in rural Maine. They are not online, so we soon connected by telephone. It was a joyful conversation, and fun to get caught up. His mother was my dad's sister. We grew up in Central Illinois where our families spent many good times together.

Cousin Pete had family history questions about our mutual Burke ancestors. He came to the right person. We talked about great-grandmother Estella Innes Burke, whom we both remembered visiting during the 1950s. He had received a couple of heirlooms from her, but knew very little about their origin.

One object was a spotting telescope, possibly used in the Civil War. Our great-grandmother's father, John B. Innes, had served in the Union Army. I told my cousin some information about him, and that I would send copies of Civil War documents. They describe our great-grandfather's hospitalization with extended illness. Fortunately for us, he survived the Civil War, then married and raised his family.

The other item my cousin received was a pocket watch. The first thought that popped into my mind was that our great-grandmother's husband was a bank president. I had visions of him wearing a vest with a watch chain. We chatted some more, and I told my cousin that I would send more reports to him in the mail. I had not studied my files from the Burke family tree for some time, and I was anxious to look through them again. I tried to restrain myself to send a manageable number of copies to my unsuspecting cousin!

My favorite find was a photograph of our grandfather with his father, our great-grandfather, Arthur M. Burke. He was the husband of our great-grandmother, who had given the watch to Pete. The photo shows father and son standing on a railroad platform, preparing to board a train.

I scanned the photo and enclosed a copy from our laser printer. On the paper, I wrote, "Behold ... a pocket watch chain!" Sure enough, our great-grandfather Burke, was wearing a natty suit, with vest and hat. His suit vest showed a chain hanging from the watch pocket. I made an additional close-up scan of the photo, so my cousin could draw his own conclusions.

I do not know whether I was more excited about sharing our genealogy with an interested family member, or being in touch with my cousin again. It was certainly a win-win situation and a special moment during the holidays.

2022 is off to a good start, filled with great plans to sort records, augmented by new information learned from Columbine's January Zoom meeting. Greg Liverman's presentation about methods for managing Family Tree Maker databases and sharing information reports was inspiring. That program, in addition to my cousin's questions, gave me a needed boost for the New Year!



Behold ... a pocket watch chain!



## The 1950 Census is Here!

As of this newsletter's publication, the 1950 census is officially available! And, thanks to handwriting recognition technology, the indexing should be done by this summer with each state being released as soon as it is completed. Both Ancestry and FamilySearch will be working on this project.

One of the most anticipated aspects of this census is that it will provide indications on how 20<sup>th</sup> century world events like the Depression, WWII and the "Baby Boomer" phenomenon affected us. And, many of our Columbine members will also find themselves listed for the first time!

If you want to keep up with all the latest on the indexing project, visit FamilySearch at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/indexing-1950-census>.

Or if you want to learn about the handwriting recognition program Ancestry will be using to improve this indexing process, you can watch a brief video about it found at this link:

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/1950-census>.

| Block No. _____                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        | POPULATION SCHEDULE                                         |      |        |                |                         |                |                              |                |                |                | Enumerated by me on April 1, 1950 |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Institution                                                                                                                                                                                                        |        | Name of Institution, if any, and address (see instructions) |      |        |                |                         |                |                              |                |                |                | Occupation                        |                |
| Place of birth of each person enumerated and of his or her parents. If born in the United States, give State or Territory. If foreign birth, give country in which birthplace is now situated. (See instructions.) |        | MOTHER TONGUE (See instructions)                            |      |        |                |                         |                |                              |                |                |                | CITIZENSHIP, ETC.                 |                |
| PERSON                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        | FATHER                                                      |      | MOTHER |                | Language spoken at home |                | Language spoken outside home |                | Naturalized    |                | Occupation                        |                |
| No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Sex    | Age                                                         | Mar. | Color  | Place of birth | Place of birth          | Place of birth | Place of birth               | Place of birth | Place of birth | Place of birth | Place of birth                    | Place of birth |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male   | 18                                                          | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female | 16                                                          | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male   | 14                                                          | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female | 12                                                          | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male   | 10                                                          | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female | 8                                                           | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male   | 6                                                           | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female | 4                                                           | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male   | 2                                                           | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Female | 0                                                           | Mar. | White  | Missouri       | Missouri                | Missouri       | Missouri                     | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri       | Missouri                          | Missouri       |

## RootsTech Roundup

Another successful virtual RootsTech wrapped up on March 5<sup>th</sup> and many Columbine members attended. Here are some impressions from a few of them on what they found interesting at this year's conference.

**Becky Clark** - Findmypast presented a great hands-on seminar on finding British Isles records. Participants performed hands-on exercises on the website. Together we went through many of the search categories and worked on live examples on how to find specific records. My ancestors were English colonial Catholics and Findmypast has extensive records on the early Catholics of various English counties. They have also cataloged the Catholic records of the American dioceses of Baltimore, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Toledo. If you have British Isles ancestors, Findmypast is a great tool for discovering your roots.

**Jean Adams** - I was impressed with the Ancestry and FamilySearch collaboration to review the 1950 census. The speakers suggested that everyone review the 1950 census for people and places that they are familiar with and then note corrections. Ancestry is using a new OCR technology designed to read human handwriting.

This year it was interesting to see that they used Zoom for many sessions. They had the same issues Columbine does with unmuted participants, barking dogs and people doing distracting things on camera. But overall, the sessions were good.

**Susan Hollis** - I enjoyed connecting with 45,801 of my "nearest and dearest" at RootsTech through the Family Search feature called Relatives at RootsTech. Three hundred names of my matches (via the Family Tree) were displayed at once in a list giving our relationship and a button for messaging if I chose to do so. I hoped the feature would be permanent, but alas it is being discontinued on March 26. Roots Tech 2022 was full of interesting genealogical aids!



## *Congratulations 20-Year Members*

**Paula Davis - Rita Elmore - Marilyn Elrod - Diane Hall - Shirley Jenkins - Marilyn Lyle**

At the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we honored six members who have been with Columbine for 20 years and below are a few brief bios and photos of some of our long-time Columbine friends:



**Paula Davis** - I am a fourth generation Coloradoan. My mother's family was in Denver by 1874. I got interested in genealogy just before I retired from teaching. I took a class from Jean Wilson in January 2001 and joined Columbine the next year.

During my time with Columbine, I have served on the refreshment committee, was membership chairman for two terms and Columbine archivist for two terms. Columbine is where I really began to learn how to do genealogy, especially how and where to gather information. I have learned so much from the members of this society and still continue to learn from our programs.

**Marilyn Lyle** - My serious genealogy began after my mother died in 1985 and I found some notes and letters she had started for family history. I took the letters from Norway, wrote to the person who had signed them and was surprised to receive a response (in Norwegian!) This was my mother's cousin and that began my research of family in Norway and a subsequent visit to meet them. It was sad that my mom could not have enjoyed the adventure that she started.



From that time on I have researched my family roots of Norway, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, and Poland. I took a beginners genealogy class offered by Columbine where I met Marilyn Elrod, and we have had many fun and educational times here and in Salt Lake. Marilyn has far surpassed my skills, but this 20-year journey has been such fun, and I thank the Columbine Historical and Genealogical Society for this honor.

**Marilyn Elrod** – I inherited a small antique table about twenty years ago that had been made by a family member over one hundred years ago. Its two drawers contained interesting documents and family information collected over many years. I just had to know who made the table and who were all the people mentioned in the copied obituaries, the photos, the old ledger book, the 1880s autograph book, the notes that mentioned names, birthdates and places in Norway and Tennessee. My interest in genealogy began. I was hooked! After attending an open house night at Bemis Library, I joined Columbine and have now been an active member for 20 years.



Diane Hall



Shirley Jenkins  
(not pictured)



Marilyn Elrod & Rita Elmore received their certificates at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Editorial Note:** In Paula's bio above, as a Colorado native I quibbled a bit over her spelling of Coloradoan. I myself use Coloradan. I was curious as to how it is most often spelled – is it Coloradoan or Coloradan? Here is an article from the CU Boulder Alumni Assn where you can judge for yourselves. (Hint: Both are acceptable.)

<https://www.colorado.edu/coloradan/2019/05/12/origins-coloradan-or-coloradoan>



## *Welcome New Members*

Nancy Berendt ▪ M Mary Coyle ▪ Sarah Davies ▪ Dick Dvorchak ▪ Kim Hatcher ▪ Darla Hofmeir  
Susan Holburn ▪ Cynthia Johnson ▪ Neil Johnson ▪ Karen Kocak ▪ Lyn Nelson  
Wilma Rozmiarek ▪ Sheryl Stewart ▪ Janet Thielke ▪ Sue Young

**Kim Hatcher** - I've been interested in my family's history since I was young and I was always asking my grandmother questions. In 1985 I found out that the man that raised me was not my biological dad. That increased my interest even more and sent me on a journey of trying to find him. I'm working on my tree, continuing to fill in information on my mom's side of the family and slowly working on my dad's side. I also work trees for my son and my niece.

The surnames I'm researching are Johnston/Harnish on my mom's side, Furgerson/Wilson on my biological dad's side, White/Snyder on my son's dad's side and Bell/Thisole on my non-biological dad's side.

**Lyn Nelson** – I was born in Kansas City, MO and moved to Colorado when I was four. I graduated from Denver East High and from college in Greeley. My career consisted of teaching kindergarten in Monterey, CA, then working in the clerical/secretarial field for the Federal Civil Service in Hawaii and later in Denver. After retiring, I kept busy with a part-time job and volunteering, as well as many projects, including family history.

Family members on both sides who had done research and/or written stories provided a great foundation of information that inspired me to build on. The Internet has helped in adding more information and stories, but there are always more to find. I thought I might get some good research ideas from genealogy groups like Columbine. My grandparents' names are Nelson, Maxwell, Hotz, and Young.

My husband and I recently moved from Englewood, and now live happily at RiverPointe in Littleton.

**Dick Dvorchak** – I am looking into where I can discover my early roots in Slovakia and Hungary. My parents came over in the 1920s and early 30s, and I have copies of passenger lists with the name Dvorcak. I would be interested in talking to Columbine members who know that name or have experience researching Slovakia and Hungary.

**Neil E. Johnson** – Is the eldest of four sons born to Lorin Calvert Johnson and Beverly Joy Grauberger Johnson in Sterling, Colorado. He married his wife Cindy in 1976 and worked for the phone company, later becoming the technical director at their church, a position from which he just retired. Both his father and his mother's families, the Johnsons and Graubergers, hold family reunion picnics every year and some of their history tracks back to colonial New England. He and his brothers own their grandmother's 160-acre homestead in Logan County, Colorado, which they still farm through a sharecropper. He is hoping to document and verify a lot of family information, especially the family history and locations around Sterling where they lived. He is researching the surnames Johnson, Grauberger and Barnes and is interested in researching family in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

**Cindy (Van Fleet) Johnson** - Cindy was born in Denver where her birth mother gave her up for adoption. Her adoptive parents were James and Alene Van Fleet. She is researching her Denver adoption and has found extensive notes by an intake worker which have aided in her search. Cindy also had an adopted brother, who passed away several years ago. She and Neil will celebrate their 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

If other new members would like to share their genealogy goals with us, please contact Newsletter Editor Becky Clark. If you are looking for a mentor on a specific subject, you may contact any board member for more information. Or, if you would like to share the surnames you are researching, you can request a Surname Research form or pick one up at the next meeting.







## *Chasing the Oregon Trail*

By Ginger Van Zyl

My interest in the Oregon Trail began when I was quite young. It may have come during one of our auto trips between Colorado and Washington state from someone's casual remark that the federal highway on which we were traveling (U.S.30 through Idaho and Oregon) was closely following the pioneers' Oregon Trail.

This fascination was cemented when as a second or third-grader, I checked out a book from the school library called *Lucretia Ann on the Oregon Trail* by Ruth Gipson Plowhead. I was enthralled with her adventures.

Dad later recommended I read *On to Oregon!* by Honoré Willsie Morrow. Based on fact, it related the harrowing and sad story of the Sager family. In this story the parents both die part way during the journey, and the seven children are left to continue on their own. It was a story that has stayed with me all these years. For the next several years I read book after book about the adventures of spunky young people during those pioneer times. I just knew that our family must have participated in the danger and romance of those difficult overland journeys.

I was aware that my dad's parents had moved from Missouri to Colorado sometime in the 1890s. So, I naively asked him if they had come by covered wagon. "No," he replied. "By that time they had trains. They came on the train." I was crushed! So much for the vision of hardy pioneers in my family traveling by covered wagon!

As an adult, my literary horizons broadened, but I maintained my interest in early American history and the western migration. So, when I retired, I knew my hobby became pursuing my own family history, taking up genealogy where my parents' research had left off. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I think I was still searching for an "Oregon Trail" ancestor.

One of the first families I researched was Taylor, a paternal line through Dad's mother. I soon found a Wright Taylor (my 2x great-grandfather). Then correspondence with the owner of a tree posted on the LDS website led me to my 3x great-grandfather, Benjamin Taylor. He and his family had settled in northwestern Missouri, near Gallatin, about 1830. I learned that Benjamin and his wife, Rachel, had moved to California in 1857. Subsequent letters revealed they had gone overland by wagon and settled near their oldest daughter, Henrietta, and her husband, Mitchell Gilliam. Henrietta was the older sister of my 2x great-grandfather, Wright Taylor, i.e., my 2x great-aunt. So, now I could say an ancestor had indeed gone west on the Oregon/California Trail.

But wait, there's more! When I began writing this story, I decided to research more about Henrietta and Mitchell. In 1844, the second year for great numbers of families to migrate to Oregon, Henrietta and Mitchell, along with their three children and 48 other neighboring families, which included many Gilliam relatives, left northwest Missouri. In addition, over a hundred single men were part of this group that gathered near St. Joseph, Missouri. This group was the fourth wagon train to head to Oregon that year.

The wagon train of about 100 wagons was divided into groups of about 25 wagons each. In Henrietta and Mitchell's group was a young family named Sager. The following quote at <http://www.oregonpioneers.com/The%20Sager%20Family.htm>, a web page entitled "The True Story of the Sager Family" by Sarah Kirk, began with a description of the Sager family.

*"Henry Sager was a simple farmer, and when the wagon train (one of four that year) passed by, Henry, his wife Naomi and their children John 14, Frank 12, Catherine 9, Elizabeth 7, Matilda 5, and Louisa 3 years old joined Captain Shaw's division at Capless Landing (near Weston, Mo.). Soon after, the baby was born. They named her Henrietta."*



This was the very family I had read about as a child in the book *On to Oregon!* And my distant relative was part of that exact wagon train.

Although Henrietta and Mitchel Gilliam moved to Sonoma County, California, in 1848, they first settled in what is now Polk County, Oregon, an area I have passed through several times in my life without a clue that a long-ago relation had indeed suffered all the hardships of the Oregon Trail seeking a better life in the west. However distant the relationship, at last I had found my connection to the Oregon Trail.







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

P.O. Box 2074  
Centennial, CO 80161-2074

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

Est. 1976

Meetings:

January-May and  
September-November

Regular Meetings,  
1:00 pm, 2nd Tuesday

Education Programs via Zoom  
1:00 pm, 3rd Tuesday

Board Meetings:

2nd Tuesday, 9:00 am via Zoom

No meetings in June, July, and  
August

Holiday Event,

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December

**Location:** Good Shepherd  
Episcopal Church  
8545 E. Dry Creek Rd.  
Centennial, CO 80112

**Annual Dues:**

Individual - \$35.00

Couples - \$45.00

**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. ***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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