



Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 50, No. 1

First Quarter – January, February, March

Winter 2023

Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

PO Box 2074
Centennial, CO 80161-2074

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**CGHS Website:**  
<https://columbinegenealogy.com/>  
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Our 50th Anniversary Year!

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Celebrating Columbine's 50th Anniversary, 1973-2023

By Becky Clark, Outgoing Editor

This year we celebrate Columbine's 50th anniversary. Over the next two issues watch for articles about our 50 years as an organization and comments from long-time Columbine members.

The three founding members of the organization were: Geraldine 'Gerry' White, Virginia Rothfus and Barbara Brown who became friends when they took an advanced genealogy class together.

The first meeting was held in Virginia Rothfus' home in Littleton on April 4, 1973. They discussed various names before setting on *Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society*. They set the dues for 1974-75 at \$3.00 per year. (1973 was pro-rated.)

Barbara became a Certified Genealogy Record Searcher (CGRS) in 1971. Virginia taught genealogy at Arapahoe Junior College and served as Columbine's first president. Gerry was elected the first secretary/treasurer.

This quarterly newsletter has been evolving ever since it began as one typewritten page and has expanded into the 8-12-page issue it is today. In 1993 a bound book containing early membership information and newsletters from 1973 to 1993 was produced.

In August of 1973 Columbine began a partnership with the Bemis Public Library to create a shared genealogy collection which has grown over the years both through purchases the society has made and through member donations. Bemis was also the meeting place for Columbine for many years.

Cont'd on Page 8

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, unless otherwise noted**Board of Directors Meetings 9:00 am - 2nd Tuesday of each month **via Zoom** (except June, July & Dec.)Columbine Writers' Group 10:00 am - 3rd Wednesday of the month **via Zoom****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

Program Previews

By Sean McGuire

Jan. 10, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm - In Person and via Zoom****Sean McGuire, Columbine's New President –
Ancestry Thru-Lines Made Easy**

Sean will demonstrate a simplified method of using ThruLines. This will be a hands-on session, and at least one of Sean's DNA matches will be processed. He will also discuss pitfalls when analyzing ThruLines matches. This program will benefit both the beginning and experienced genealogist.

Feb. 14, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm - In Person and via Zoom****Morgan Courtney, Collections & Exhibition
Manager, Summit Historical Society -
A Walk in the Park, Dillon Cemetery**

The former cemetery for the Town of Dillon, Colorado, which was relocated for construction of Dillon Reservoir, required complicated problem-solving. This will be discussed along with the symbolism found in cemeteries in general and the importance of cemeteries to our society.

Mar. 14, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm - In Person and via Zoom****Randi Samuelson-Brown, Colorado author –
“The Bad Old Days of Colorado: Untold Stories of the Wild West”**

This book celebrates the Centennial State's glorious and rowdy past. Ms. Samuelson-Brown will detail several of the colorful characters she discovered, the research challenges she faced and what it takes to get a book published.



Outgoing President's Message

By Barbara Elliott

It's hard to believe 2022 is coming to an end and 2023 will bring new changes to the Board of Columbine. Sean McGuire will be our new president and he will make a good one. It has been my privilege to work with a lot of wonderful board members, and we have seen quite a few changes the last couple of years.

In the last week of September, a few of us went to Salt Lake City on a genealogy research trip. It was wonderful to spend time with like-minded people, and we were all busy making copies of books and films. Even though my own research wasn't that promising, I was able to find information on collateral lines. I have spent the last couple of months reading through the material I brought home and have added some information and discarded other.

My goal for 2023 will be to read more about World War II in the Pacific and the battleship my father and his nephew served on during this time. Fold3.com was a wonderful place to find this information, and I was able to download the commander's log from 1941 to 1946. As my father talked about his time aboard ship, I already knew a lot about the battles he fought in before I found this treasure.

As this is my last newsletter as president, I want to thank everyone for coming to our program and education meetings, whether in-person or on Zoom. We have a wonderful society and I am glad to be a part of Columbine. Thank you all.

RootsTech 2023 Is Coming!

RootsTech 2023 will take place March 2-4, 2023. Their theme this year is "uniting." The programs will be both in-person in Salt Lake City and online. To register and find out more, follow this link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

They also have an On-Demand library where you can find info on the many RootsTech sessions and topics at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/search>

CGHS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS 2023

President

Sean McGuire

1st Vice President - Programs

Open Position

2nd Vice President - Publicity

Open Position

3rd Vice President – Bookstore

Ann Lisa Pearson

Education Coordinator

Jean Adams

Recording Secretary

Open Position

Corresponding Secretary

Susan Hollis

Treasurer

Julie McKemy

Membership Coordinator

Kim Hatcher

Newsletter Editor

Jean Ouellette

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Acquisitions

Susan Meeker

Auditing

Ron Floberg & Julie Haynie

Bylaws

Barbara Elliott

Bulletin Board/Historian

Open Position

Equipment

Chuck Towne

Nominating

Open Position

Photographer

Open Position

Special Projects

Open Position

Hospitality

Heidi Maughan & Dotty Burdick

Website Editor

Nancy Reubert

Colorado Council Representative

Mary Mouton

Mailing

Shirley Jenkins

Facebook Editor

Kim Hatcher

Education Previews

By Jean Adams

Jan. 17, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm – In person and via Zoom**

Location: Englewood Public Library
1000 Englewood Parkway, 1st Floor
Englewood, CO 80110

**Carol Cooke Darrow – Professional Genealogist
Researching European Ancestors Without a Passport.**

To succeed at European genealogy research, you must learn about the standard records of the countries of your ancestors through websites, books, maps, and genealogy societies for that country. The growing number of online resources will help speed up your search.

Mar. 21, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm – In person and via Zoom**

Location: Englewood Public Library
1000 Englewood Parkway, 1st Floor
Englewood, CO 80110

**Dina Carson – Author, Lecturer & Coordinator, Boulder Pioneers Project –
Attics and Archives, or What You Will Miss If You're Stuck Like Glue to Ancestry.**

While [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) is one of the most useful tools for genealogical research, if you haven't ventured much beyond the confines of your own computer, you have no idea what you're missing. Come hear how a trip through an attic can yield unseen or unpublished records. Find out what courthouse, states, counties, towns, universities, businesses, schools, clubs, and churches can provide for your research. Experience what is beyond your desk.

Feb. 21, 2023**1:00 – 3:00 pm – In person and via Zoom**

Location: Englewood Public Library
1000 Englewood Parkway, 1st Floor
Englewood, CO 80110

**CGHS Members – Researching at the Salt Lake
City FamilySearch Library.**

CGHS members will provide ideas on how to plan your research and what you might find in the records at the FamilySearch Library. Members will share experiences from a recent trip to the largest genealogical library in the world.

Genealogy Workshops

By Jean Adams

Jan. 12, 2023 – Expand Your Genealogical Research**1:00 – 3:00 pm – In person only.**

Location: Englewood Public Library
1000 Englewood Parkway, 1st Floor
Englewood, CO 80110

Presenters: Barbara Elliott, Past President and Jean Adams, Education Coordinator, CGHS

If you've started researching your ancestors but have hit some brick walls, this class will give you some additional resources. We'll look at archives, historical newspapers, land and military records, immigration sources and more. The library has copies of "How to do Everything Genealogy, Fourth Edition" by George G. Morgan. This class will feature highlights from Part II of this excellent book.

Workshops cont'd on next page

Feb. 8, 2023 - Expand Your Genealogical Research1:00 - 3:00pm - **In person**

Location: Bemis Public Library

6014 S. Datura Street

Littleton, Colorado 80120

Presenters: Barbara Elliott, Past President and Jean Adams, Education Coordinator, CGHS

Description: If you've started researching your ancestors but have hit some brick walls this class will give you some additional resources. We'll look at archives, historical newspapers, land and military records, immigration sources and more. The library has copies of "How to do Everything Genealogy, Fourth Edition" by George G. Morgan. This class will feature highlights from Part II of this excellent book.

Chromebooks will be available for class members to access online sources. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

Fee: \$35.00 (\$45.00 family) includes notebook, six continuing education sessions, mentor connections, newsletter, and membership for one year in Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society (CGHS). New researchers who are current 2023 CGHS members may attend at no charge.

Welcome New Members

- Mary Barnes
- Barbara Barnes
- Lize Csrunko
- Jari Kolterman
- Lucy Koran
- Cherry Lofstrom
- Michael Lynch
- Susan Lynch
- Melissa Martino
- Mary Mouton
- Kathy Peterson

Celebrating Our 50 Years!

Comments from Long-Time Members

Watch for interesting articles about our 50 years as an organization and for comments like those below from long-time Columbine members. We will hold a celebration at our April 11th meeting and hope everyone will be able to join us for cake and camaraderie. Stay tuned for more information.

Ann Lisa Pearson - I joined Columbine in September of 1978, which was recorded as 1979, the fifth year that Columbine was organized. At that time the meetings were held at Bemis Public Library in the meeting room. There was a small closet where we had shelves that held the many research books which members could check-out and take home for one month.

Columbine meetings were held on the second and third Tuesdays of the month, except in the summer. The Board met in the morning on the second Tuesday of the month, with our regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. On the third Tuesday of the month, we held meetings dedicated to educational subjects. In 1995 our meeting place changed to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Centennial, Colorado.



I taught beginning classes for six years. These were in the morning for a two-hour period over seven weeks. At that time the Federal Archives were at the Federal Center in Jefferson County and the class made a trip there as part of the course.

I was elected President of Columbine in 1995 and have held several other offices on the Board through the years. These past years, I have seen many changes and how much Columbine grew in the early years and then declined in recent years. In 2008 when Columbine celebrated 35 years, many members participated in producing the anniversary book. Now 15 more years have passed, and this year we celebrate 50 years as an organization.

Jean Adams – My original genealogical mentor was a summer neighbor in Breckenridge who had been researching her family history for 30 years. She told me, “Start with yourself, create a filing system and join a local genealogical group.” I followed her advice and joined a CGHS class in September 2012 at Bemis Library, taught by Ann Lisa Pearson and Marilyn Elrod. I loved what I was learning and joined CGHS for the next year (2013) along with classmates Chris Yaros and Stan Harms.



The following fall a very persuasive CGHS president named CJ Backus talked me into “helping” Allison Gibbens with the position of First VP, Programs. I was still a very new researcher, but CJ was very, very persuasive.

Her suggestions for managing programs was that if you are in charge of finding speakers, why not find speakers for topics you want to learn about? That was great advice and it was fun!

I corresponded with very friendly, knowledgeable speakers who could teach what I wanted to learn.

Just in case there is anyone reading this who feels the same way, I recommend that you volunteer for the position of First VP, Programs or Education Coordinator!

CJ Backus - I have two fond memories because of one of our wonderful presidents, Sandi Klein.

The first was our 35th Anniversary Celebration in 2008 which included a panel of charter members at the luncheon. And, due to Gary Routh's brilliant idea, we were able to present the 1973-2008 history book, as well.



The second memory stems from Sandi wanting a conference; thus, we had the 2010 Symposium with Laura Prescott.

Both of these experiences included many members pitching in to create fun and historical activities for the society to present.

Joyce B. Lohse - Since joining Columbine in 1997, a favorite memory that comes to mind is transcribing and preserving records for the Littleton Cemetery Index project. Connie Strandberg, Joan McGrane and I visited the cemetery office to compare documents with cemetery cards, all handwritten by various people. It was a challenge, a learning experience, and a great time spent with Connie and Joan, visiting the cemetery, and learning more about its permanent residents.



In 2006 and 2012, I enjoyed CGHS research trips to Salt Lake City, which resulted in loads of family data, some of which still requires attention. My favorite meeting presentation was in

about 1999 when Dee Dee Horan spoke about the benefits of studying and collecting postcards. When the postcard-collecting bug bit me hard, the slippery slope led to much enjoyment and a broadened perspective on history.

When I was asked to be president, I resisted due to fear of public speaking, but accepted in order to improve my skills. To make my reports more interesting, I inserted news items, such as one about a moose caught tipping over headstones in a Maine cemetery. I also gained confidence by presenting history programs to the always friendly and forgiving Columbine audience.

Great memories abound with gratitude for them all. Happy 50th Columbine Anniversary.

Photos from Earlier Years



Barbara Brown, 2008



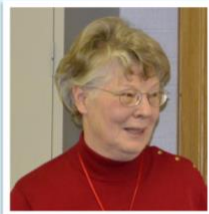
James Jeffrey & Sandi Klein, 2009



Dory Rice, 2010



Carol Stall, Eleanor Spence
& Nedra Fortune, 2011



JoAnn LaGuardia, 2011



Margaret Weiland, 2012



Chris Fleischhacker, 2013



Bob Huegel, Richard Evans and
Chris Yaros, 2014

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Have you renewed your membership for 2023? This is our 50th anniversary year and we look forward to having everyone renew and bring in new members, too! There will be anniversary activities this year and you don't want to miss out!

If you have friends and relations who might be interested, please share that we offer educational programs, study groups, research tips, and mentoring to help with family research -- whatever their level of experience. You can renew online or encourage friends to join at the website link www.columbinegenealogy.com.

And don't forget you can also donate at the same time to the Stern-NARA fund as well! Help this fund to preserve and digitize materials in the collections of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Columbine makes annual donations to the fund with contributions from members.

Celebrating Columbine's 50th, cont'd from Page 1

Bemis was not the only library or historical society to benefit from Columbine donations. Donations also went to the Littleton Historical Museum, the Denver Public Library and to the Stern-NARA Fund.

In October of 1973 the first research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City was organized and became an annual outing for many years.

In November of 1974 a group tea was held to celebrate the end of the year and that evolved into our annual December Holiday Party which now takes place on the second Tuesday in December.

The society was incorporated as a non-profit on June 14, 1976.

Over the years society members have also participated in many local records preservation and publishing projects, all of which can be found at: <https://columbinegenealogy.com/records/>.

One of these was a huge project to collect, preserve, microfilm, and publish record books for the four oldest churches in Littleton, Colorado. This project took 16 years to complete with the help of 150 volunteers.

In 1982 Columbine sponsored a seminar on British genealogy research by members of the Society of Genealogists from London.

In 1988 CGHS received the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Award of Merit for the Littleton Church Records Project. This was the highest recognition for a local society. Columbine was praised for the scope and quality of the project.

In 1991 our third quarter newsletter announced that the Family History Library in Salt Lake had made an arrangement with the Colorado State Archives to begin filming Colorado records – these consisted of records of various dates, including vital, census, probate, land, military, naturalization, immigration, church, and other records of genealogical value. Colorado genealogical societies were asked to help.

In 1994 Columbine's newsletter received a national first place award from the National Genealogical Society for appearance and content.

In 2008 Columbine held a Genealogy Research Day featuring genealogist and author Colleen Fitzpatrick. This included one of our first sessions on DNA research and genealogy.

Also, in 2008 Columbine produced a publication, *Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary, 1972-2008*, co-edited by Gary W. Routh and CJ Backus. It highlighted our history, activities, achievements, awards and 35th year membership roll.

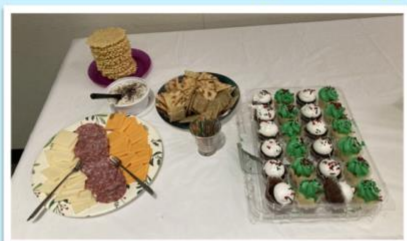
In 2010 Columbine held a symposium with Laura G. Prescott, president of the Association of Professional Genealogists on finding online images, publishing genealogies online, finding family in academic archives and using manuscripts to create a family history.

In 2011 one of our founders, Barbara Jones Brown, who died in 2008, received the 2011 Memorial Hall of Fame-David S. Vogels Award established by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS) for significantly contributing to the genealogy field in Colorado in a unique, pioneering, or exemplary way.

In 2013 Anita Burbank-Jenkins formed a Writers' Group for members to research different types of writing, to critique each other's work and give suggestions and support. That group is still going strong today!

Stay tuned for more memories in our spring newsletter, which comes out in April.

Holiday Party Fun 2022!



More Holiday Party Fun 2022!



Call for Volunteers for Open Board & Committee Positions

We still have several important board and committee positions open and urgently need volunteers to fill these positions for the organization to continue. Current board members will guide and help you get acclimated, so please help your society by volunteering!

Open Board Positions

First VP, Programs - Schedule presenters to speak on genealogical or historical subjects. Whoever takes this position will have a head start as our current programs' VP has already found many speakers for next year and has ideas for others to help you.

Second VP, Publicity - Create publicity program announcements for the CGHS meetings, workshops, and classes with information provided by the Program and Education chair people. Release program announcements to membership and the media. Create, maintain, and update the publicity distribution lists. Distribute the quarterly CGHS Newsletter by email.

Recording Secretary – An office we cannot function without! Responsible for taking minutes of all board and business meetings and for their distribution. Board meetings are by zoom and recorded to aid the secretary in compiling the minutes. Along with President, sign all contracts and documents authorized by the Society.

Membership Coordinator – Collect dues and maintain a record of all members, maintain and distribute new member packets, member nametags and visitors' log; maintain membership database; along with the publicity chair, compile and distributed the membership directory. **We have one volunteer, but need one more. Please volunteer and make this a two-person team!**

Open Committee Positions

Bulletin Board/Historian - Collect and preserve items of historical interest to the Society, display information of interest on the bulletin board at meetings. Collect records of value to the history of CGHS. Submit Society's records of historical value to Denver Public Library's Manuscript Department along with newsletters, board minutes and annual reports.

Nominations – This is a position for three people who have been active members for one year. Find member candidates for open positions and provide nominated candidate names to the board at the August board meeting.

Photographer – Take photos of speakers, membership and activities at all meetings and events and provide to newsletter and website editors.

Hospitality – Oversee refreshments for all meetings and occasions. Request members to bring refreshments. Purchase supplies. Set up the food counter and direct clean-up of refreshments and kitchen area after meetings. **We have two volunteers, but need one more. Come help these other volunteers!**

Newsletter Proofreader – Proofread the newsletter each quarter for accuracy and report changes to the Newsletter Editor.

An organization is only as strong as its members' participation. Help Columbine continue to be the great society that has grown for 50 years!



Do You Enjoy Writing?

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 history. This is a great way to share what you have discovered about your family history and get feedback from other writers about your stories.

Not everyone submits a story each month, as we want everyone to have a chance to share, ask for suggestions and receive constructive comments. We send our stories out a few days before the meeting so everyone has time to read them. Questions from the group help us learn where more information is needed or what could be worded differently. After you've proofread your own story numerous times, it can be helpful for others to read it, in case you missed something. The best part is, we all improve our writing and have fun doing it!

You don't have to share right away, but are still invited to come see how the group works. Feel free to join us in this fun learning activity. Contact Becky Clark if you'd like to attend.

Columbine Member Research

Below are surnames being researched by Columbine members. If you, too, are looking for ancestors with these names, get in touch with these members.

Marge Healy is researching the name McNichols in Chicago. Tom Healy is researching the surname Kennedy in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Susan Meeker is researching the name Skaja in Minneapolis, MN.

Chris Yaros is researching the names Potts, Yaros, Lobo, Franz in Indiana and Hein in Indiana and Germany.



**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,

2nd 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/

Find news updates at:

[www.Facebook.com/ColumbineGenealogy/](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbineGenealogy/)

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