



Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter

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Second Quarter – April, May, June

Spring 2023

Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

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Member of



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Our 50TH Anniversary Year!

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Genealogy

A Hobby That Keeps On Giving!

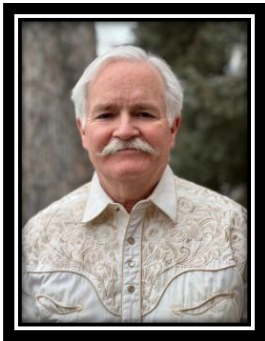
By Connie Strandberg

Perhaps I was meant to pursue genealogy as a hobby. Family photos and stories always interested me. Marrying an employee of an airline, provided airfare for visits to far away courthouses and cemeteries.

Family reunions where my many first and second cousins have had a chance to stay connected kept my interest piqued. Many were generous with their photos and recollections gleaned from their branches of various family lines. Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society kept feeding me lessons on how to research, how to organize and encouragement to keep digging into ways our ancestors participated in historical events.

Genealogy is a hobby that keeps on giving! New records available online have replaced visits to the National Archives branch here in Colorado. I do miss those visits with other members of Columbine, spending the day researching side by side, sharing our discoveries.

My three sons and four grandchildren provide an audience for me to update their knowledge of new findings and family developments. I wonder if I would have become so involved in this kind of research if I had stayed in Montana, where my roots are? It has been a driving ambition of mine to keep my immediate family connected to those roots. When our family relocated back to Denver, after 13 years in the Chicago suburbs, we asked our sons where they considered their homes to be. One son, a 3rd grader at the time, quickly responded, Montana! He had never lived there. This warmed my heart.



President's Message

By Sean McGuire

good, BAD & ugly

This year marks Columbine's 50th Anniversary. Although Columbine was not incorporated until 1976, it was originally formed in 1973. On a recent trip to Columbine's safe deposit box, Maggie Schmidt, Julie McKemy and I discovered original signatures of Columbine's charter members dated February 12, 1974. We should be proud of this jubilee celebration, especially considering that we consist entirely of volunteers, that we survived the COVID pandemic, and were forced to find a new meeting place. We have also successfully transitioned to holding hybrid meetings. A big thank you goes to our outgoing President, Barbara Elliott.

Why the bad and ugly then? At our first Board of Directors meeting in January, we did not have enough Board members present to make a quorum. By all rights, we should not have met - but we did anyway. However, we could not make any decisions. Although I don't expect this to happen for the February meeting, we are in danger of jeopardizing our continued existence if we don't get a few people to step up.

At the January meeting of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, the lack of volunteers was the number one issue facing organizations like us. Just five years ago, the Germanic Genealogical Society of Colorado ceased to exist. Until recently, the W.I.S.E. Family History Society almost closed, and the Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America is still under that threat.

Two of us board members are performing double-duty. Bless you, Jeanie Ouellette. We can continue that for a short time, but it's simply not sustainable for the long-term. We need folks to take over Programs, Publicity, Historian, and Membership co-coordinator. Our lone person on the Nominations Committee, Phyllis Seminara, recently passed away. We need a couple of our long-time members to take her place.

The really ugly truth: Columbine will continue to serve its members only if its members come to the rescue. We need YOU to step up. Thank you.

CGHS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS 2023

President

Sean McGuire

1st Vice President - Programs

Marylee Hagen

2nd Vice President - Publicity

Mary Mouton

3rd Vice President – Bookstore

Ann Lisa Pearson

Education Coordinator

Jean Adams

Recording Secretary

Cheryl Floberg

Corresponding Secretary

Susan Hollis

Treasurer

Julie McKemy

Membership Coordinator

Kim Hatcher

Newsletter Editor

Jean Ouellette

Newsletter Proofreader

CJ Backus

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Acquisitions

Susan Meeker

Auditing

Ron Floberg & Julie Haynie

Bylaws

Barbara Elliott

Bulletin Board/Historian

Open Position

Equipment

Chuck Towne

Nominating

Open Positions

Photographer

Open Position

Special Projects

Open Position

Hospitality

Heidi Maughan & Pamela Munstock

Website Editor

Nancy Reubert

Colorado Council Representative

Mary Mouton

Mailing

Shirley Jenkins

Facebook Editor

Kim Hatcher



In Recognition Of Our Long Time Members We Thank You For Your Contributions To Columbine

20 Year Member

Shirley Terry

40 year Member

Connie Strandberg

Welcome New Members

Chris Flohr – Chris has always been interested in genealogy and family history and really focused on research for about 10 years now. Chris was born and raised in Iowa and now lives in Colorado Springs. She is a DAR member. There are Swedes on both sides of her family and hopes to travel to Sweden to meet relatives this year. Chris also hopes to travel to the eastern US to explore some Appalachian roots. She researches many surnames - Flohr, Sands, Wilkinson, Nilsson, McGuire, Anderson Bresson, Baber, Piltz, and Bishop. Chris also frequently travels by motorcycle, enjoying the countryside and cemeteries along the way.

Darla Hofmeir – She is a beginner and is struggling through with trial and error, “mostly error and minimal accomplishments.” Darla enjoys the Zoom training and information sharing. Darla’s research of her paternal lines, Banta and Sherwood, goes back to 1659 with their arrival in America. Her maternal lines, for Jansen and Fick, has met a brick wall with the find of her great grandfather Frederick Jansen 1853-1924.

Kathleen Wells – Welcome to Kathleen

Columbine Meetings

Meeting Times: (except June, July, Aug. & Dec.)

Program Meetings 1:00 pm – 2nd Tuesday of the month **In-Person & via Zoom**

Meeting Place: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E Dry Creek Rd., Centennial, CO 80112

Education Meetings 1:00 pm – 3rd Tuesday of the month **In-person & via Zoom**

Meeting Place: Englewood Public Library, Anderson Room, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, 80110

Board of Directors Meetings 9:00 am – 2nd Tuesday of each month (except June, July & Dec.) **via Zoom**

Columbine Writers' Group 10:00 am – 3rd Wednesday of the month **via Zoom**

For more information about Columbine meetings, changes, additions or cancellations visit our website:

www.columbinegenealogy.com



Tuesday April 11 1:00 – 3:00 PM

CELEBRATION OF COLUMBINE'S 50th

Join us for this special meeting where we will celebrate 50 successful years of genealogy research, friendship and learning. Many happy memories and friendships have been formed during these years. There will be trivia and prizes for your answers and cake! Come and enjoy remembering your experiences.



Program Previews

By Sean McGuire

Tuesday April 11 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Writing Up Your Results – Don't Leave Us Hanging

Carol Cooke Darrow, professional genealogist, will discuss the Genealogical Proof Standard which is a guideline for establishing the reliability of a genealogical conclusion with reasonable certainty.

Tuesday May 9 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Cracking The Code: DNA Myths And Reality

Greg Liverman, repeat presenter to CGHS will present an overview of DNA testing and its use in genealogical research. This program will be particularly suitable for those who are new to DNA testing.

In-Person Location

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial 80112

Also via Zoom

Education Previews

By Jean Adams

Tuesday April 18 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Voting Records: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret

Pam Vestal, professional genealogist, will show us how voting records may help us find the answer to a date of birth, where your ancestor came from or where he disappeared to. These often overlooked gems can be packed with genealogical information. You won't believe what they can tell us about our ancestors!

In-person Location

Englewood Public Library, Anderson Room, 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO 80110

Also via Zoom

Celebrating Our 50 Years! *Comments From Long-Time Members*

Susan Hollis – Columbine...the Early Days

A neighbor, Jan Trbovich, invited me to a Columbine meeting in the early 1980s. She and Gladys Harris were offering a beginning genealogy class and I signed up. Gladys held the classes in her home in southeast Denver. She and Jan were very experienced genealogists and provided me with a great start for this life-long hobby. My Granddaddy Hysaw sent me letters telling what he remembered about his family, and my Grandmother Currell did also. Both sent photos of our ancestors and I had them professionally copied and framed and hung on the wall where they still are today! All our genealogical research was done via books at the Denver Public Library, Bemis Library or by mail. We wrote letters by hand to older relatives near and far asking for information, family bible locations, photos, etc. We always included SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). I think the percentage of people replying to me was much higher then, than now when I write via e-mail on Ancestry. People wrote notes back even if they had no information to share.



At home I used our Apple IIe to construct my rudimentary database to begin transferring genealogy facts from the family group sheets. When I got a PC, I was thrilled to pieces to be able to purchase a genealogical program called Roots II. Oh, the magic of an easy-to-use program! It eventually morphed into Family Tree Maker which I use today.

I later hosted a few sessions of the genealogy class in my home, and even recruited my neighbor, Mary Lou King, who served as newsletter editor and president of the group! She also interested her husband, Earl King, who also served as president. In those days we met in the basement at Bemis Library once a month. The room was always full. We had a speaker for each meeting just as today, and we had a second monthly meeting which was called a workshop meeting. At this meeting we broke into groups by state to share research tips. Barbara Brown, Gerry White, Jim Winfrey, Doris Hulse, Sharon Lee, were some of the earliest members I knew. Margaret Weiland and Sergia Dunlap were also active. All these people were so friendly and welcoming, always ready to answer questions. Tables were set up where we could buy family group sheets (5 or 10 cents each, I think) to use in our research. There were also some genealogy books for sale. We were required to fill out pedigree sheets to hand in to be bound into large binders. Several people found distant cousins in the group.

Lorraine Tharp and Ann Lisa Pearson planned our research trips to Salt Lake. Lorraine worked at a travel agency inside the drug store in University Hills Shopping Center. We flew to Salt Lake together and spent five days researching all day long in the library, breaking for lunch with our special passes at the LDS employees cafeteria where the lunches were subsidized by the church, and thus were about half what we might pay other places. Ann Lisa directed us towards the correct areas of the library where we might find records to help. We stayed four to a room at Howard Johnson's which is now The Plaza. We were right next door to the library! We also attended the weekly Mormon Tabernacle Choir practice on Thursday evening several times.

After a few years Shirley Stertz and I served as Program Co-chairs. We had lots of fun meeting and finding programs (all free of course...no speaker was paid.) Then we organized the workshops for the second meeting of the month. There were many young mothers who attended Columbine meetings. I for one enjoyed having my kids play with kids in the babysitting club while I got an afternoon off from stay-at-home mom duties. Time has flown...I often tease Linda Gensmer that when we met all those years ago at Columbine Genealogy we both had naturally brunette hair!

Connie Strandberg – How lucky I was in 1982 to mention to my neighbor, Sergia Dunlap, that I was interested in the genealogy of my family! Sergia was active at Columbine and urged me to join. I could only attend meetings during the summer up until 1996 because I worked in a couple of local school districts. The newsletters and any weekend classes or lectures helped me proceed with research during my working years. I have always valued the friendliness of the members and felt comfortable asking for help when a problem surfaced.



My favorite times during meetings and December holiday parties have been the sharing moments when we hear members tell about break-throughs made during their research. Not everyone in our lives wants to hear about what we discovered and how we discovered the stories our ancestors have revealed to us! I have had to blink back tears during the hearing of these stories or we have all joined in hearty laughter. Such good times with each other! Thank you, Columbine members from the past and into the present.

Shirley Stertz – I am trying to look back since 1974-7 when I first learned of a Genealogy Society in the area. At this time, I had been working on my family tree with my grandmother who was 84 and more than willing to give to me an overstuffed shoe box of obituaries. After reading in my local news flyer that Betty Kaufman, a lady in the area, was teaching a few hours of instruction for a total of \$5.00 for four classes, I signed up and decided to get this project started the right way. After completing the classes I started attending Columbine for awhile and then joined. As you might say: "Here comes a good mystery in every box." Album, story, and hundreds of pictures and the journey just keeps on giving. I have learned from the knowledge of people I did not know and many older ones, too. Just remembering how many weeks it took to hear the one answer you were waiting for from the court house to get you to the next level. Thanks for the many friends through the years for sharing their knowledge. I am now over 40 years at Columbine and next year will be 40 years with Mount Rosa NSDAR.



Do you have a memory of Columbine over the years? Please share them with us.

We have been in existence for 50 years and would like you to share an experience you remember during your membership with Columbine.



Early Computer Use In Genealogy and How Far We Have Come

By Becky Clark

In this, our 50th anniversary year I was reviewing old newsletters in the hardbound book that was created in 1993 by Columbine members containing membership and newsletters from 1973-1993. I found some interesting articles about the early days of the use of computers in genealogy and that started me thinking about what a long way we have come in our research capabilities from 1973 when the organization began.

In the July 1987 issue of the newsletter, society president, Harry McMullen wrote an article giving advice on how to make a decision on using a computer in genealogy. He suggested that if you were on the fence or intimidated about whether to get a computer and genealogy software that you find a few people you knew who were doing genealogy with these tools. He suggested you ask to see their hardware and software, so you could get an idea what you wanted. He also suggested you participate in user groups for the various software available so you could determine what might be right for you.



The October 1987 newsletter had a computer survey that asked some of these questions – Did you use an IBM compatible computer; what amount of RAM did your computer have; how many floppy drives you had; if you had a hard drive; the names of your word processing software programs; what databases and genealogy software you used; and did you think starting a computer group within Columbine would be useful.

In the July 1989 newsletter, a computer symposium was announced by CGS's Computer Interest Group with Barbara Clawson of NGS speaking on how to get started and comfortable with a computer. She talked about storage devices and about uses for the computer in the future.

The January 1991 newsletter issue had another article by then past president Harry McMullen on computers and genealogy. In the article he stated how important a computer was in managing his genealogy data and one of his comments was that his files were always available when he needed them.

In the April 1991 newsletter, Earl King wrote an article about the PRODIGY online service as a tool to communicate with other genealogists about their research. It allowed subscribers to use dialup modem service to connect to a genealogy bulletin board where people would share their genealogy information with others. Messages remained on the message board for 14 days. In 1991 the charge for being on the service was between \$8.33 and \$12.95 per month, and it also provided free email services for up to 30 message a month.

Some of the early tools used for genealogy were:

- PAF (Personal Ancestral File) a genealogy software developed in 1983 by FamilySearch was available for free download. With this tool users could put family information and sources into a database that was searchable and shareable. You could create and print various forms and charts and share files with others using GEDCOM. It's final version release took place in 2002 and support was discontinued in 2013.



- PERSI (the Periodical Source Index) is the largest subject index for genealogy and local history articles and periodicals and was an early tool used by genealogists. It was created by the Allen County Library's Genealogy Center and was first published as books, then CDs and is now online. It contains history and genealogy magazines and journals and is currently available from the Genealogy Center website of the Allen County Library at: <https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/>

- HeritageQuest is another tool that has been available for some time for genealogists to use. It is an online database of American and international genealogy records. It has family histories, research guides, city directories and genealogy publications. Many libraries were the first online source of this tool, but now it can be accessed at home through some libraries using your library card.

The early days of computer use brought us many chat rooms, blogs and online resources like Cyndi's List to help the genealogist find useful information and links.

Find a Grave and BillionGraves gave us the ability to find where our ancestors were buried, see their headstones and epitaphs, and create memorials for family that could be accessed by everyone.

Word processing software gave us the ability to type up our family statistics, write our family stories and histories faster (and more legibly) and save thousands of pages of paper by storing them on our computers and backing up to disks and now to the cloud. Spreadsheets gave us the ability to put our family statistics in order. Home genealogy software allowed us to keep family trees, source and citation information readily available without sorting through boxes of material.



Over the years computers and online data access have become faster and easier to use. Our storage capabilities moved from floppy disks to zip drives to large computer hard drives and USB sticks and portable external hard drives. Cloud storage meant that the amount of data you could store was almost unimaginable in size compared to the days of the floppy disk or rooms full of files and boxes of paper.

Not only could the home user scan family photos and make digital copies of written documents, but OCR (optical character recognition) capabilities made that information searchable to help find exactly what you need.

A large percentage of genealogical and historical information is still not available online, but more and more national, state and county records are slowly becoming available for digital access. Local use of microfiche and microfilm however still provide important access if you can get to the location that has what you need.

The Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/> and Google Books have become sources of searchable digital histories for cities, counties, and states. The Internet Archive also has a lending library tool called Open Library, <https://openlibrary.org/> to allow you to check out publications for online review for a certain period. In addition, the Internet Archive provides the Wayback Machine, a digital archive of the World Wide Web. This preserves archives of websites that are no more, but which can possibly still be found through this useful tool. JSTOR provides access to academic journals that are searchable.

This is only a small sampling of the way things have changed in genealogical research since Columbine began back in 1973. I'm sure that all of you will remember many things that were not included here, but here's hoping that this article led you on a trip down memory lane about how your own genealogy research has been changed by computers and online access over the years.

Remembering Columbine Members Who Have Left Us



Phyllis Seminara became a Columbine member in 1987. Phyllis volunteered for many committees. She helped on the Littleton Cemetery Interment Records project and chaired the Refreshment committee for many years. She also served on the “Investing In The Future of CGHS

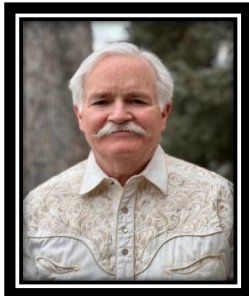
Committee” and several times on the Nominating Committee. When she joined a committee she worked tirelessly with such dedication to the project. Phyllis enjoyed being a part of Columbine and her enthusiasm with genealogy finally convinced her daughter, Chanlar, to “get on board.” Phyllis passed in November 2022 at the age of 90.



Donna Porter made lasting contributions to the genealogical community. Donna was lifetime and founding member, as well as a director of W.I.S.E. She was an active leader in the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History, as well as in the

Foothills Genealogical Society and Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society. Ann Lisa Pearson and Donna traveled and attended many conferences together promoting where and how to do genealogical research. In their later years Donna and her husband moved to Missouri to be near their youngest son. Donna passed in January 2023 at the age of 90.

Thank You To Our Winter 2023 Speakers



Sean McGuire
Ancestry Thru-Lines
1/10/23



Barbara Elliott
Expand Genealogy Research
1/12/23



Jean Adams



Carol Cooke Darrow
European Ancestors
1/17/23



Morgan Courtney
Dillon Cemetery
2/14/23



CGHS Members
Salt Lake City
2/21/23



Randi Samuelson-Brown
Colorado Bad Old Days
3/14/23



Dina Carson
Attics & Archives
3/21/23

Make A Difference



Just before press time we had two people volunteer for two open positions! Marylee Hagen volunteered for 1st Vice President – Programs. Mary Mouton volunteered for 2nd Vice President – Publicity. A huge THANK YOU goes out to these volunteers and the other Columbine members who helped fill our need.

This is your society. Help make it the best genealogy source for your benefit. Will you step forward and fill one of the remaining positions? You don't have to do it alone. The current person holding the position will work with you. You can also ask a friend to be your co-chairperson.

THE LIST IS GETTING SMALLER BUT, VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!

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. Kim Hatcher has volunteered for this position. You may have met her already when you sign in at our meetings. **But she needs help. Please volunteer and make this a two-person team! Many hands make light work.**

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. This position is best if filled by three people. Ask a friend to work with you.

Photographer – Do you come to meetings? You are halfway there. Just take photos of speakers, membership and activities at meetings and events then provide to newsletter and website editors.

**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.

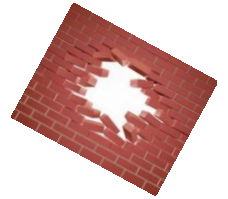


Not everyone submits a story each month, as we want everyone to have a chance to share, ask for suggestions and receive constructive comments. We send our stories out a few days before the meeting so everyone has time to read them. Questions from the group help us learn where more information is needed 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!

If you are not sure how to get started this is a great way to learn. 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's Surname and Brick Wall Research



Listed below are surnames that our members are researching.
Are you possibly researching the same surname? Make a connection with another member to see if you are related. If you would like to list a surname or brick wall you are researching let us know and we will put it in a future newsletter.

Member	Surname Researched	Location
Laurie O'Shea	Julia Sorell (Sorell)	Detroit, Michigan or San Francisco, California
	O'Shea	Michigan & New York
Ann Lisa Pearson	Coffin & Starbuck	Nantucket Island
	Savage	Maine, Ohio, Iowa
Nancy Reubert	Fidance, Cicatelli, Chickadel, DiPrisco	Delaware & Pennsylvania
	Reubert, Jay, Hanson, Southworth	New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts
	Gushurst, Vincent	South Dakota, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama
	Elam, Gold, Clayton	Virginia, North Carolina
	Trundle, Mayner, MaGarr	Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania
Shirley Stertz	Mitcheltree, Smith	Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa
	Shuyler	New York
	Small, Smally	Maine, Illinois, Massachusetts



**COLUMBINE GENEALGICAL
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**
PO 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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