



# Family Footprints

Family · History · It's All Relative

### In This Issue:

- Our Trip to New York City...Week of July 24, 2001 – 1, 12
- President's Message – My Distant Connection – 2 – 3
- The Sunny Side of Genealogy – 3
- Columbine Meetings Schedule – 4
- Programs – Education – SIG Previews – 4 – 8
- Writers Group – 9
- Welcome New Members - 9
- Friends Corner – "Behind the Scenes" – 10
- A General Overview of Places To Search – 11
- Dare To Wear White After Labor Day – 12
- How To Find A Family Bible – Bible Kick-starts Publishing –13
- Fairmount Cemetery – My Weird Hobby – 14
- National Family History Month - 15
- Upside-Down Baluster – An Old Superstition - 15
- Candy Cane Meaning – The Christmas Pickle - 16
- Finding Your Roots – Palatines To America – Billiongraves - 17
- Roots Tech – SLC Hotel – NGS Conference - 18
- Vote – 2026 Budget – Officers – 19
- Vote – Bylaws – Standing Rules – 20 – 21
- Membership Form - 22

**Website:**

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

**Email:**

[columbinegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:columbinegenealogy@gmail.com)

**Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc**

PO Box 2074  
Centennial, CO 80161-2074

\*\*\*\*\*

## Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Year!

Established 1973

Cultural & Educational Organization 501(c) (3)

Newsletter Published Quarterly

Subscription included in membership dues

**Member of**



## Our Trip to New York City ...Week of July 24, 2001

By Susan Hollis

My nephew, Michael Gibson, son of my sister Janis, invited Janis, our sister Cindy, and me to visit him in New York where he lived and worked as manager of an office building. He was house sitting for friends, a couple with no children, but 2 cats, and was traveling each day to check on the cats via the subway. He asked his friends if he could invite us to stay in the apartment located near Columbus Circle, close to Central Park. The couple asked only that we feed the cats and let them out on the 33rd floor balcony for fresh air. Having never been there we were all thrilled and packed our Benadryl as we're all allergic to cats. We met up at LaGuardia as they lived in Oklahoma and I in Colorado. Michael was there too and had hired a limousine to take us to the apartment! We had the apartment for a week and made the most of our time ...Cindy enrolled in the Art Students League for classes as she taught Art in the public schools. Janis and I were mainly interested in the historical sites. We visited the Statue of Liberty, standing in line to pass through the crown, and visited the Ellis Island Immigration Building which had been restored as a museum. We looked for our ancestors' names in the record there, but I knew our people had all arrived by 1730, so no luck. While Cindy was in class, Janis and I took the ferry to Staten Island, then a city bus to the restored village of Richmond, a colonial village and museum. Janis got a little freaked out when the neighborhood kids threw rocks at the bus as we rode along, but the bus driver said that was a daily occurrence and not to worry. I had read about the site in my AAA Travel Guide which had never steered me wrong.

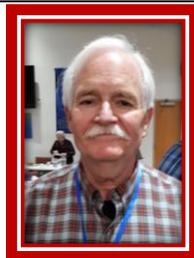
One day we visited Michael's workplace which was a

*Continued on page 12*

## President's Message

By Sean McGuire

### MY DISTANT CONNECTION TO A COLORADO TRAGEDY



I found out about a man named “Arkansas” John Sechler (1838-1898) by analyzing many DNA matches. Of note, two of his descendants are DNA matches with me. They are members of the Cheyenne /Arapahoe tribe. Descendants of these lines lived on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

I was curious why this man, my second cousin four times removed, was nicknamed “Arkansas” when he was born in Pennsylvania and ended up in North Dakota. By the way, our common ancestors are John Sechler, Sr. (1739-1831) and Christiana Fischer (1750-1825). This John Sechler was a Sergeant in the American Revolutionary war. He is “Arkansas” John’s great-grandfather and my fifth great-grandfather (through my maternal grandmother Frances McClellan (1900-1978)).

“Arkansas” John Sechler got caught up in the fever of the Black Hills gold rush in the Dakota Territories, which peaked from 1874 to 1877. He was a colorful man. An 1888 article in the Black Hills Daily Times reported that John was stabbed by a man named Spud Murphy in a saloon in Crawford, Nebraska. The larger story is that John was freighting on the old Deadwood and Sidney trail, and was captured by Cheyenne Indians and held Captive for thirteen years. He reportedly married into the Sioux Nation. (From the Crawford Tribune, June 26, 1903.)

John married Ote-se-ot-see Nisutha, or Mary Six Fingers (1842-1892). She was the daughter of Cut Lip Bear (1815-1864) and Nis-ta-nah, or Corn Tassel Woman (1815-1864). You may notice that Mary’s parents both died in 1864. The date was November 29, 1864, and they died in the Sand Creek Massacre, perhaps the most shameful chapter in Colorado’s history. Up to 150 members of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes were slaughtered, most of them women and children, by Colonel John Chivington and the Third Colorado Cavalry under the direction of Governor John Evans.



John Y. Sechler and his wife Ote-se-ot-see or Mary Six-Fingers of the Cheyenne Tribes. Photo provided

*continued on page 3*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### OFFICERS – 2025

###### President

Sean McGuire

###### Vice President – Programs

Marylee Hagen

###### Secretary

Stephen Asay

###### Treasurer

Julie McKemy

###### Education Coordinators

Darla Hofmeir & Barbara Elliott

###### Membership Coordinators

Jean Adams, Susan Hollis,  
Maggie Schmidt, Gary Witt

###### Publicity

Ann Kerr

#### APPOINTED STANDING COMMITTEES

##### Acquisitions

Donna Chrislip

##### Auditing

Chuck Towne and Pam Rosendal

##### Bylaws & Standing Rules

Barbara Elliott

##### Colorado Council Representative

Nancy Berendt

##### Equipment

Neil Johnson

##### Hospitality Co-Chairs

Open Positions

##### Newsletter Editor

Jeanie Blanchard

##### Newsletter Proofreader

CJ Backus

##### Nominating Co-Chairs

Open Positions

##### Photographer

Open Position

##### Social Media Editor

Ann Kerr

##### Website Editor & Assistant

Nancy Reubert, Neil Johnson

##### Calendar & Email Manager

Pam Rosendal

##### Zoom Committee

Becky Clark, Richard Evans, Neil Johnson,  
Sean McGuire, Maggie Schmidt



Content, unless otherwise noted, is copyrighted 2025 by CGHS. All rights are reserved, except permission is granted to Genealogical Societies and associated special interest groups to reprint any part of the CGHS material, provided credit is given to the author and to the Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society.

**MY DISTANT CONNECTION**

*continued from page 2*

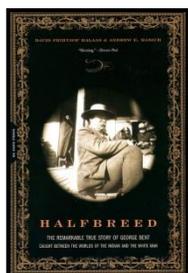
Mary Six Fingers had a sister, Magpie (1836-1886). Magpie was married to another famous man: George Bent (1843-1918). George was the half-breed son of William Wells Bent, also known as Little White Man, the co-founder of a number of trading posts in the West, including Bent’s Fort, nine miles northeast of La Junta, Colorado.



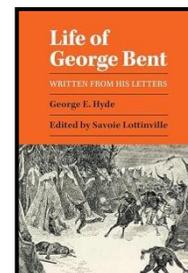
Bent’s Fort was built by William Wells Bent and his brother, Charles, in 1833 to trade with the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Plains Indians, of which Mary Six Fingers was a member. The Fort operated for sixteen years until 1849. For much of its time, the Bent’s Fort was the only white permanent settlement on the Santa Fe Trail between Missouri and Mexican settlements. The original site was moved and reconstructed in 1976 by the United States Government

and is now designated a National Historic Site. Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. year-round except for five holidays.

George Bent has an amazing story. Although half-Indian, he grew up in Missouri, and was conscripted into the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War. Taken prisoner by the Union, he managed to escape, and fled to his mother’s tribe in eastern Colorado. George was a witness to the Sand Creek Massacre, and wrote about it.



I was able to obtain two books that detail George’s life. The first, “Halpbreed – The Remarkable True Story of George Bent - Caught Between the Worlds of the Indian and the White Man,” was written by David Halaas and Andrew Masich, both associated with the Colorado Historical Society (now known as History Colorado). The second, “Life of George Bent Written From His Letters” was compiled by George E. Hyde. I highly recommend each book.



I found out why John Sechler was nicknamed Arkansas John. It is because John came from the land east of the Arkansas River in Eastern Colorado. I also found out why John’s wife may have been named Mary Six Fingers. After the Sand Creek Massacre, it was the practice of many of the survivors and descendants to express their grief by cutting off their own fingers. What a dreadful thought.



My folks didn’t come over on the Mayflower, but they were there to meet the boat.

Will Rogers



Remember, remember always, that all of us,  
and you and I especially, are descended  
from immigrants and revolutionists.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

## ***COLUMBINE GENEALOGY MEETINGS***

**Meeting Times: (except June, July, August, & December)**

**Program Meetings** . . . . . 1:00 p.m. MT – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month - **In-Person & via Zoom**  
 Meeting Place: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Rd., Centennial, CO 80112

**December Holiday Event** . . . 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December – **In-Person**

**Education – Skills Sessions** . . . 1:00 p.m. MT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month - **via Zoom**

**Special Interest Groups** - open to CGHS Members Only

Deeds & Property Records, Wills, Early Church Records . . . . 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month at 10:00 a.m. MT via Zoom only

Family Tree Maker Software . . . . . 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month at 10:00 a.m. MT via Zoom only

Beginning Research, Websites & Software . . . . . scheduled according to Southglenn Library availability,  
 6972 S. Vine St., Centennial, CO 80122

DO Over (or GO Over) . . . . . 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each Month at 10:00 a.m. MT via Zoom only

If you wish to attend a SIG contact Barbara Elliott at [columbinegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:columbinegenealogy@gmail.com)

**Board of Directors Meetings** . . . . . 9:00 a.m. MT – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except June, July & Dec.) **via Zoom**  
 Columbine members and guests are welcome to attend our board meetings. Topics on the agenda include timely concerns in addition to regular status updates from board members. For more information or to receive a Zoom link, contact the president, Sean McGuire ([seantmcguire@msn.com](mailto:seantmcguire@msn.com)).

**Columbine Writers’ Group** . . . . . 10:00 a.m. MT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month **via Zoom**

**Annual Dues:** Individual – \$35.00 Household – \$45.00

For information about Columbine meetings, changes, additions or cancellations visit our website: [www.columbinegenealogy.com](http://www.columbinegenealogy.com)

Find news updates at: [www.facebook.com/columbinegenealogy/](https://www.facebook.com/columbinegenealogy/)

**BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE** – If the President postpones a meeting due to an emergency or bad weather, the Publicity chair will send emails to members. *Please do not call the Church office.*

### **PROGRAM PREVIEWS**

**Marylee Hagen, Vice President, Programs**

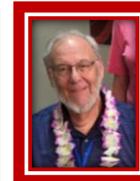
**Tuesday October 14 1:00 – 3:00 PM**



### **END WITCH HUNTS – SALEM WITCHES**



**Presenter: Sarah Jack** of Aurora turns a dark family history into a force for good—as a descendant of New England witch trial victims, she founded the nonprofit End Witch Hunts to address modern witchcraft accusations through education and advocacy. This Colorado-based advocate also co-hosts two podcasts diving into witch hunts past and present, while championing the exoneration of historical victims. Her efforts have caught global attention, landing features in The New York Times and NPR. Columbine members **Chuck Towne & Neil Johnson** will contribute to the presentation.



**Description:** Sarah Jack brings the world of witch hunts to life for modern audiences, showing how accusations of witchcraft still cause harm around the globe today. Learn about the international effort to end these injustices and the Massachusetts Witch-Hunt Justice Project’s work to exonerate eight individuals convicted in Boston between 1647 and 1688.

**In-Person and via Zoom**

**Location – Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial, CO 80112**

**Tuesday November 11 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

## **WWI –OVERVIEW, RECORDS/SOURCES AVAILABLE, PEOPLE WHO SERVED AND RESULTS OF WWI**



**Presenter: Sandy Ronayne** is past president of the Colorado Genealogical Society, past president of CGS/Computer Interest Group, past vice-president of the Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Family History Society, and past vice-present of the Council of Colorado Genealogical societies. She is on the board of the Colorado Chapter Palatines to America, a member of the Toll Gate Creek chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Daughters of the Union, the First Families of Ohio, the Society of Civil War Families of Ohio and the Colorado Society of Mayflower Descendants. Sandy graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with undergraduate and graduate degrees.

**Description:** Sandy shares tips for identifying and understanding a wide range of military records, from service statements and pension files to discharge papers and commendations. She'll also discuss personal items like uniforms, weapons, and letters that provide deeper insight into a service member's experience. Sandy draws from her own research into ancestors who served in WWI.

**In-Person and via Zoom**

**Location – Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial, CO 80112**

**Tuesday December 9 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

## **BEN AND OLE'S LAND *and* OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL**



**Presenter: Patty Clayton** is currently the International Western Music Association's Female Performer of the Year and will join us in person.

**Description:** Our annual winter social will include a special program with Patty Clayton. She will share a 12-minute video she produced, *Ben and Ole's Land: A Deep West Video*. The video tells the remarkable story of her great-grandparents who homesteaded a remote ranch in western Idaho.

Patty will also share how her western heritage shaped her musical journey and career. She'll then take the stage with her guitar to perform a set of three songs – blending the spirit of the West with the warmth of the season, including at least one holiday favorite.

Don't miss this unique mix of storytelling, history and live music from one of western music's most celebrated voices.



We will also have our annual holiday buffet celebration so bring your favorite finger food to share.

**In-Person and via Zoom**

**Location – Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 8545 E. Dry Creek Road, Centennial, CO 80112**

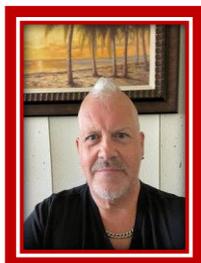
*Skills Session*

## EDUCATION PREVIEWS

**Darla Hofmeir & Barbara Elliott**  
Co-Coordinators



**Tuesday October 21 1:00 – 3:00 PM**



### THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF ANNA T. McPHILLIPS

**Presenter : Thomas MacEntee** Welcome Thomas once again before his retirement. Thomas MacEntee is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and as a means of interacting with others in the family history community. Thomas is a guy with a love of punk rock music but also art history who somehow “fell” into the technology industry years ago. He left a lucrative tech career to pursue his love of family history and genealogy. Technology and historical research seem like opposites, but “tech people” like Thomas are needed to guide you through the maze of options so you can find your ancestors and bring their stories to life.

**Description:** Can a mysterious family photo with a cryptic message on the back lead you to an amazing story of love and loss? Starting with a family photo, learn how you can plan your genealogy research to find out more information about the photo’s subject including vital record information, newspaper articles, and even circumstances that you might not expect. You’ll also learn how to track your research and use solid research methodology to evaluate records.



**Presented via Zoom only**

**Tuesday November 18 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

### BEYOND THE BRICK WALL: STRATEGIES FOR Pre-1850 U.S. RESEARCH



**Presenter : Julia A. Anderson, MA, AG, AGL**, has a Master’s degree in history and education and is an Accredited Genealogist and Accredited Genealogist Lecturer with expertise in the United State Gulf Region. She works as a full time U.S. and Canada research specialist at the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also teaches genealogy research classes for Salt Lake Community College.

**Description:** Researching in the United States prior to 1850 presents unique challenges. Records contain less information, are seldom indexed and can be difficult to find. In this class, strategies for identifying relationships prior to 1850 will be introduced. Advanced research skills, record analysis and evidence correlation will be demonstrated. Some experience researching ancestors in the U.S. post 1850 will be helpful.

**Presented via Zoom only**



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Darla Hofmeir & Barbara Elliott  
Co-Chairpersons



Special Interest Groups are a benefit available to Columbine Genealogy members only. Preregistration is required to receive your Zoom link. Contact Barbara Elliott at [ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com) to register. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining to enjoy exclusive benefits, expert guidance and a supportive community.

## BASIC BEGINNING RESEARCH

Basic Beginning Research, Websites and Software is a hands-on class and will meet at various local libraries.

**What to expect:** If you have any questions on beginning research strategies, issues with data entry on FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com, please come so that we can help you. We will spend time working through Ancestry's Card Catalog.

This SIG is a great place to ask questions about your research and to talk through your brick walls. You may bring your laptop.

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025**  
**in person at the Arapahoe Southglenn Library, 6972 S Vine St., Centennial, CO.**

Meetings will not be held in November or December because of the holidays.

## DEEDS • PROPERTY RECORDS • WILLS • EARLY CHURCH RECORDS

This SIG combines the Deeds & Property SIG and the Early Church Records SIG to provide a comprehensive resource for learning how to find elusive ancestors.

**Learn research strategies:** Gain valuable insights on using deeds, property records, will, and early church records to trace your family history.

**Ask your questions:** Bring your research challenges and roadblocks for group discussion and support. Share your knowledge: Help others in their genealogical journeys by sharing your experiences and expertise.

Preregistration is required. Contact Barbara Elliot at [ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com) to register.

Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 10 a.m. **via Zoom.**

**Monday, October 6, 2025**

**Monday, November 3, 2025**

**Monday, December 1, 2025**

## FAMILY TREE MAKER SOFTWARE

We are using the FTM Companion Guide and will cover a chapter per month. The concept of this class is to teach each other. This is a great way to learn how to use your FTM software.

### What to Expect:

**Guided Learning:** We will work through the FTM Companion Guide (available for free on the MacKiev website), covering a chapter per month.

**Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Share your knowledge and learn from others in a supportive group setting.

**Hands-on Experience:** Get practical tips and tricks for navigating FTM and building your family tree.

No experience necessary! Whether you are a beginner or an experienced FTM user, all are welcome. Come join us and unlock the full potential of Family Tree Maker!

Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted) **via Zoom**.  
Preregistration is required.

Contact Barbara Elliot at [ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com) to register.

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, October 23, 2025    3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, November 20, 2025    3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, December 18, 2025**



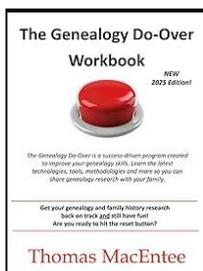
## “DO OVER (or GO OVER)”

By Jean Adams



**Kick off was September 29** via Zoom with future sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Jean Adams will lead these sessions with the assistance of volunteer attendees.

**Resources:** **The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook by Thomas MacEntee, 2025 Edition.** Available on Amazon, \$8.99 plus shipping in soft cover, also available on Kindle. Free downloads from <https://genealogybargains.com>.



**Description:** Thomas MacEntee, on the cover of the workbook, says, “Get your genealogy and family history research back on track and still have fun! Are you ready to hit the reset button?” In March of 2025, Thomas MacEntee dazzled us with an hour of things we could do to refresh our research. This new Special Interest Group (SIG) started in September to look at the multitude of items in detail. We will meet monthly to discuss our efforts to **Do-Over (or Go-Over)** our research. Using the chapters of the book, we will attack this challenging task cheerfully and thoughtfully while encouraging each other.

**Sign up:** If you are a member and are interested, send Jean Adams an email: [jadams31216@gmail.com](mailto:jadams31216@gmail.com)

Via Zoom

Monday, October 27, 2025

Monday, November 24, 2025

## WRITERS GROUP

**Becky Clark, Chairperson**



The Columbine Writers Group meets **via Zoom** each month on the third Wednesday at 10:00 am. This is a casual, friendly group which meets to share our family stories with one another and get feedback and support for our writing. We know that by compiling our work into interesting stories our relatives of today can enjoy and share in the fascinating facts we have unearthed about our ancestors. The best part is, we learn how to improve our writing and we have fun doing it!

Join us to get friendly support, share in the camaraderie and get your family stories down on paper to leave as a legacy for other family members. For more information, contact Becky Clark at [ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com).

Writers Group is a benefit available to Columbine Genealogy members only. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining to enjoy exclusive benefits, expert guidance and a supportive community.

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**



**By Jean Adams, Membership Co-Chair**

We are pleased to welcome our newest members and look forward to getting to know them better.

**Linda Roberts**, Rocky River, OH

**Melissa Foremny**, Oaklyn, New Jersey

**Barb Hancock**, Durango CO

**Dawn Bunyak**, Littleton, CO

**Linda Roberts** is researching the “Roberts” surname in West Virginia and Ohio. Another surname of interest to her is “Dearth” in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Like many of our members, she has connections to the New England states.

**Melissa Foremny** lives close to Philadelphia and can help if someone needs documents from there or the New Jersey Archives. She is researching the surnames Skinner, Sutherland and Young in England and the New England states.

All Columbine Genealogy members can list their research surnames and places on our membership software after logging in as a member.

Here is the link: <https://columbinegenealogy.membershiptoolkit.com/story/383610>

Let’s see if we can help others researching the same surnames as ours or in the same locations!

## FRIENDS CORNER

**Maggie Schmidt**



Over the summer, we have been making some big changes to Friends Corner, our membership software. We have added a Calendar of Events to help you keep up with our activities, which can be viewed either on our website Columbine Genealogy, or on Friends Corner.

We are also in the process of creating photo pages which show past Columbine meetings or other events. We're calling them "Behind the Scenes Photos", so don't miss them. You'll find them on the menu list on Friends Corner.

In addition, we have added charts of surnames that are being researched by members. There are twelve surnames that are being researched by multiple members. Maybe other members are researching your ancestors! We have also mapped the locations that are being researched. Find your research location on one of the maps, then find out which other members are researching in that location. Perhaps you can exchange research tips with other members for the state or country where you both are researching.

You'll want to check out these new features on the menu list for Friends Corner!

<https://columbinegenealogy.membershiptoolkit.com/story/461162>



## PHOTOS FOR FRIENDS CORNER "BEHIND THE SCENES"

**Maggie Schmidt**

Do you have photos that you have taken of Columbine meetings and other events, over the years or recently? We'd like to display some of them on Friends Corner, featured in "Behind the Scenes Photos". Contact us at [columbinegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:columbinegenealogy@gmail.com).

After we receive photos, in addition to using some for Friends Corner, we want to organize them and store them for future use. Are you interested in helping us do this?

Let us know at [columbinegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:columbinegenealogy@gmail.com).



## A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PLACES TO SEARCH

By Barbara Elliott



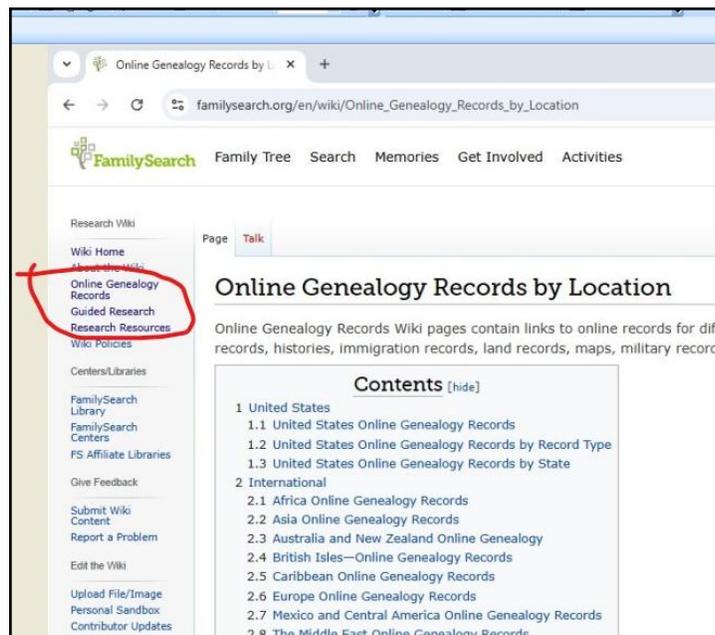
### FamilySearch.org – Research Wiki

One the left hand column select:

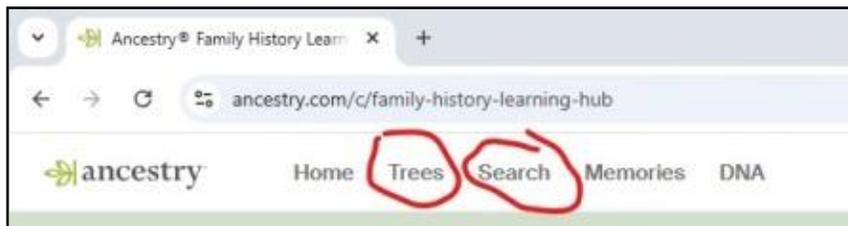
“**Online Genealogy Records**” – lets you check out what records are available by location by scrolling through the list.

“**Guided Research**” – gives you a list of countries available for more guided research.

“**Research Resources**” – provides a list of options to choose from. Scroll down to select a country and that wiki page will come up with information on what is available online. It also includes a map.



### Ancestry.com



“**Trees**” tab

Select “**Family History Learning Hub**” in the dropdown menu. This provides information on how to research different records.

“**Search**” tab in the drop down menu

Select “**All Collections**”

In the right hand column – scroll down to “**Reference, dictionaries and almanac.**” Then select “**Research guides and finding aids.**”

At the very bottom of most pages there is a “**Support Center**” selection. This takes you to Ancestry’s Support Topics page. Type in what you are looking for. Example: “tips for reading old handwriting.” This will give you examples of different styles of cursive handwriting.

## Our Trip to New York City....Week of July 24, 2001

*continued from page 1*

multi-story office building one block east of the World Trade Center. He took us to the roof of the building where we could see the nearby Brooklyn Bridge, Verrazano Narrows Bridge as well as the Trade Center buildings, the East River, and the views east and south. The highlight of our week was when Michael got tickets for “The Producers” starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. Before the show Michael took us to dinner at Windows of the World on top of the World Trade Center. Our waiter overheard us talking about Campfire Girls camp that we went to, and apparently, we mentioned s’mores, because for dessert he surprised us with s’mores. We were treated like queens for a week by Michael who wouldn’t let us pay for a thing. We did get to treat him and a few of his friends to a rooftop patio dinner at his West Village apartment. I made an appetizer of bruschetta topped with olive tapenade and Italian tomatoes and grilled steaks stuffed with jalapeno and garlic, and Janis baked her famous cherry pie. Cindy contributed a salad with her homemade dressing. Michael and his friends were suitably impressed. We can cook.

It was a spectacular week.

**September 11, 2001.** I was at the school where I taught second grade getting ready for the day. When I dropped in to the teachers’ lounge, people were gathered around a large TV. We saw smoke and flames billowing from the World Trade Center. Katie Couric said it was a small plane like a Cessna, and that fire trucks and ambulances were on their way. A sad situation, an accident. The firemen would handle it. The second plane hit. It was hard to comprehend what was happening. This was clearly no accident.

The school day was a blur. We were told to keep our room TV off and not to discuss what had happened. Because we are two hours behind NYC, parents had seen the news and began arriving to pick up their kids. That morning no one knew if other targets other than the WTC, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA would be attacked.

After school I heard from my sister Janis that Michael was unharmed. That was not quite accurate. Michael and colleagues were on the roof of their office building and watched the second plane hit the tower. Michael made sure that their building’s air and ventilation system was shut off so as not to take in as much smoke and dust. Of course there was no transportation heading uptown, so he and all the employees had to walk to get home. Michael set up his maintenance workers on 24-hour shifts to stay in the building and monitor its condition. He walked from his West Village apartment to the building daily and then home carrying food and water for the workers in his backpack. He suffered lung irritation from walking in the debris and dust, and some long-term physical problems. He was later named Property Manager of the Year by Jones, Lang, and Lasalle for his efforts.

My sisters and I searched the list of victims from the Windows of the World. We hoped our kind waiter was safe at home that morning.

## DARE TO WEAR WHITE AFTER LABOR DAY



Status, weather and cleaning issues are reasons for the taboo. Not wearing white after Labor Day goes back to the years between the late 1870s and early 1900s – the Gilded Age. Historians indicate that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century wearing white was a sign of wealth. Even the difference between nouveau riche and old money was considered. You were wealthy enough to clean or replace your clothing when it was soiled or with the change of seasons. Cities had severe pollution which would cause white garments to be soiled so white was worn when you left the dingy city for vacation in the warmer months. Laborers wore darker colors all year to bring less attention to soiled garments. Snow, mud, and slush hindered the ability to keep whites white. Darker colors were worn from Labor Day until May Day to disguise soiling of clothing.



Chloë Nannestad – Readers Digest 5/28/2025



## HOW TO FIND A FAMILY BIBLE

Family Tree Magazine - July/August 2019 – page 64

You have asked every family member you can think of if they might have the family bible. Check with the family member that handles family funerals. Funeral homes can tell you who they are. If this does not work where do you turn?

Check with libraries, state archives, historical, and genealogical societies where your ancestors lived. State Library and State Archives of North Carolina [digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/family-records](http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/family-records) is an example of a repository that posts digitized Bible pages online.

Two other sources for online indexes compiled from family bibles are: Connecticut State Library [libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/bible](http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/bible) and the Western Reserve Historical Society [www.wrhs.org/research/library/genelaogy/database/bible-records-index](http://www.wrhs.org/research/library/genelaogy/database/bible-records-index).

Volunteer websites are also worth checking out. Bible Records Online [www.biblerecords.com](http://www.biblerecords.com) is an example. Others are listed on Cyndi's list [www.cyndislist.com/bibles](http://www.cyndislist.com/bibles). Still another site is eBay [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), an auction site that lists items for sale. Military pension files may be a source as widows send Bible pages as proof of marriage.

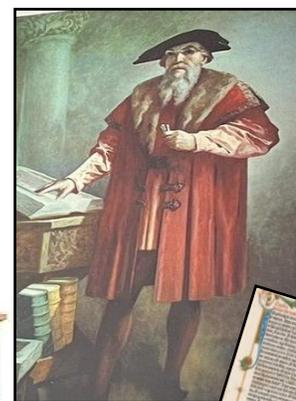


## THE BIBLE KICK-STARTED THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

By Ariel Zeitlin

“Though the word Bible comes from the Greek word *biblios*, meaning “scrolls,” the Bible was actually the first book to be printed by movable type (instead of being written by hand). Johann Gutenberg probably finished his first printing in 1455, in Mainz, Germany. Almost 600 years later, just 49 copies of the Gutenberg Bible are still in existence, and less than half of those are complete copies. One is under lock and key at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Better check your bookshelves because these rare books are worth a fortune”



## FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY

430 S. Quebec Street  
Denver, Colorado

One of Colorado's oldest cemeteries, the Fairmount Cemetery, was founded in 1890. Fairmount Sexton's Records 1891 – 1953 were made accessible to the public through the efforts of the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Western History and Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library.

In 1959 the Genealogy Society microfilmed the records and the grave registers were roughly arranged in alphabetical order by burial date or entombment with additional information. Then volunteers of DPL's Western History Department copied the films and alphabetically arranged the information listing record details.



There have been over 145,000 burials at Fairmount Cemetery. Pioneers, politicians and notables of Colorado can be found here. Information detailing removal to and from other cemeteries may also be found. Soldiers originally buried in Europe and other conflicts were reburied at Fairmount. In the 1890's when Old City Cemetery, (Mount Prospect) closed many bodies were relocated to Fairmount.

This information can be found through the Denver Public Library [denverlibrary.org](https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/Fairmount_Sexton_Records_1891_1953.pdf) website or at [https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/Fairmount Sexton Records 1891 1953.pdf](https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/Fairmount_Sexton_Records_1891_1953.pdf)

*An article by Valerie Beaudrault for **The Weekly Genealogist** provided information for this article. Valerie Beaudrault is Assistant Editor for American Ancestors.*

## MY WEIRD HOBBY - Gravestone recipe baking

While interning at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., Rosie Grant noticed how often people shared a favorite recipe as their last words. A former librarian living in Los Angeles, Grant, 35, puts her research skills to use by tracking down these gravestones. "I travel to them, and I try to bring their recipe, and have a bite and think about the person," she says. It's hard to pick a favorite, she says, but she's made Naomi Odessa Miller-Dawson's Spritz Cookies, from Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, the most.





## NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

**October** was designated as Family History Month by the United States Congressional resolution enacted in 2001. This observance stirs our interests in our heritage and the importance of preserving our family's traditions and stories. Our research connects us more closely to our ancestors as we learn what their struggles and successes were like.

### ONE UPSIDE-DOWN BALUSTER

In many historical homes one can find oddities related to superstition. One such oddity is the upside-down baluster which dates back centuries. Many beliefs explain this tradition. This baluster was inverted to confuse evil spirits and prevent the devil from climbing the stairs to claim souls on their deathbed. It was believed that the devil could only move in a straight line thus protecting the home from evil spirits.

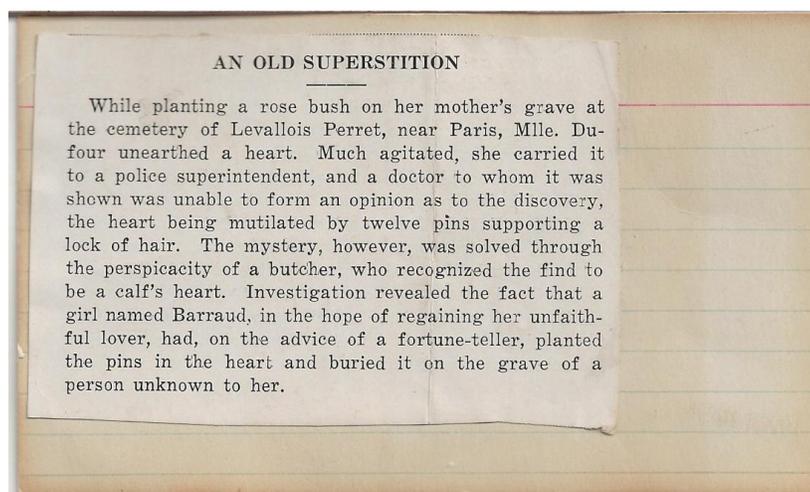


As a sign of respect, carpenters would place an inverted baluster to show that their work was not flawless and could not be "perfect" like God's creations, therefore avoiding any suggestion of vanity on the part of the craftsman or homeowner. This tradition was also used in U.S. government buildings symbolizing that only God can obtain perfection. Author Marshall Damgaard wrote in his book "The South Dakota State Capitol: The First Century" that it was common at the beginning of the 1900s to invert a baluster to symbolize the belief that only God can attain perfection. This baluster was placed the third on the right to represent the Holy Trinity. Richard R. Gibson wrote in his book "A Celebration of State Capitols" that the Amish craftsmen who built the Wyoming State Capitol staircase inverted a baluster to remind visitors that no person, or law, is perfect.

This belief was also seen as a good luck charm, witch mark or hexafoil to confuse and keep away evil spirits. Still another explanation relates to 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish builders that showed loyalty to Bonnie Prince Charlie who failed to claim the English throne. The inverted baluster was a covert message of solidarity near a key road known at the time as "The Devil's Staircase" near the border of England and Scotland.

### AN OLD SUPERSTITION

A 3x5 index card found in an antique library file drawer.



## The Meaning of the Candy Cane

ISAIAH 53

The candymaker's  
work of art  
Can teach the mind  
and touch the heart.  
For Jesus Christ  
he made a "J"  
That's like a staff  
for sheep who stray.  
Like Christ, our Rock,  
the firmness stands  
For promises  
and God's commands.  
The purest white  
for the virgin birth  
Is streaked with red  
for his pain on earth.  
The scourging stripes  
are close and thin;  
The broader one  
is for our sin.  
This message is  
too good to keep  
*The Shepherd died  
to save His Sheep!*

- Barbara Keener Shenk  
1927 -2015



## The Christmas Pickle

Where does the tradition come from?

There are many theories as to why this tradition exists.

While the children slept the Parents hide the pickle among the green Christmas tree branches. The pickle was also green so it was hard for the children to find on Christmas morning. This added to the fun. As a reward you might be the first one to open a present or maybe get an extra one. Or maybe finding it brought you good fortune in the next year.

It is considered to be a Old World German tradition although no one knows for sure. It could also be German-American or Eastern European-American. Or could it have started with the Pennsylvania Dutch in the United States?

Did it start with the story of two Spanish boys traveling home for the holidays from boarding school? Stopping at an inn on the way, the evil innkeeper kidnapped them. Then St. Nicholas stopped at the inn and found the boys stuffed in a pickle barrel and saved them.

Still another possibility – Germany manufactured glass blown fruit and vegetable shaped ornaments in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Woolworth imported the ornaments to their stores in the United States. The pickle was not selling so it was marketed as a “German Tradition” to improve its sales.

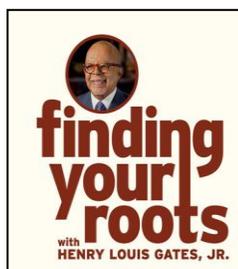
Then there is the story of the captured American Civil War soldier who was starved in prison. On Christmas Eve the soldier begged the guard for one last pickle before he died. The guard relented and gave him the pickle. This strengthened the soldier. He was able to return to his family and started the tradition of hiding a pickle on his Christmas tree every year.



It sure is a pickle as to when and where this tradition started.

Dr. Kim Kilmek, History Professor  
Haley Lena – The Voice Newspaper 12/19/2024  
Rachel Bougham – Family Handiman Magazine 12/9/2021





The 12<sup>th</sup> season will premiere on January 6, 2026. Host and executive producer, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. stated that, “despite the loss of federal funding for public television, *Finding Your Roots* and PBS are not going anywhere.” Congress recently decided to recapture over \$1 billion in federal funds for public broadcasting, including the American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), National Public Radio (NPR) and hundreds of local and regional radio and TV stations. *Finding Your Roots* is a production of McGee Media, Inkwell Media, and Kunhardt Films, in association with WETA, Washington, D.C.

In a 2023 Q&A with PBS Standards & Practices, Professor Gates said that *Finding Your Roots* casting is a “multifaceted process” with many factors at play. “At its core is our desire to tell a rich range of stories that reflect the diversity of both the human experience as well as of the American people, as seen in the history of immigration to the United States,” he explained. “We work toward this goal by sending invitations out to a broad range of compelling individuals, without prior research about their family trees. Once a person has agreed to be in the series, only then does our research into their ancestry start.”

The roster of celebrity guests for Season 12 includes actors Lizzy Caplan, Kristin Chenoweth, Liza Colón-Zayas, Darren Criss, Danielle Deadwyler, America Ferrera, Sanaa Lathan, Tracy Letts, and Delroy Lindo. Also included are businessman Barry Diller, musicians Flea, Rhiannon Giddens, Wiz Khalifa, and Lizzo, filmmaker Spike Lee, athletes Brittney Griner, and Chris Paul, journalist Sara Haines, and comedian Hasan Minhaj. One additional celebrity guest has yet to be announced.

Eastman Blog August 23/2025

## THE COLORADO CHAPTER OF PALATINES TO AMERICA

### FALL SEMINAR

November 15, 2025  
Highlands Ranch Senior Center



The speaker will be Alexander Tolksdorf. He is a genealogist specializing in German, Dutch and Eastern European research. Visit [www.copalum.us](http://www.copalum.us) for details on this hybrid event.



### 10 GREAT NEW FEATURES!

BillionGraves has added 10 new features. Just use the link below and learn all about them!

<https://blog.billiongraves.com/whats-new-billiongraves-10-great-new-features/>

Eastman Blog 9/10/25



## RootsTech 2026 Conference

Save The Date – March 5 – 7, 2026

Mark your calendars because RootsTech 2026 will be held both online and in-person at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. If this conference is on your list of things to do in 2026, start planning now. Registration has already opened as of September 24.

Early-bird tickets are \$99 for a three-day pass and \$69 for a one-day pass. Individuals can also tune in online for free. Register for the in-person conference on the RootsTech website or register for the free online option.

## SALT LAKE CITY HOTEL TO BECOME A PARKING LOT

The Salt Lake Plaza Hotel located next to the FamilySearch Library will be closed as of November 1, 2025. Maintenance, operation and needed updating costs of the 50 year old structure continue to increase. The hotel and long closed JB’s restaurant will be demolished according to The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints’ land development company. The demolition of the Plaza will accommodate parking needs for the open house of the Salt Lake Temple reopening in April 2027.



Although not as convenient or as affordable, there will still be over 7,000 hotel rooms within a mile of downtown Salt Lake City. Plans for the parking area, after the 2027 Temple open house, are still undetermined.

Eastman’s Newsletter 8/20/2025



The National Genealogical Society (NGS) is pleased to announce the theme for the NGS 2026 Family History Conference—America at 250. The conference is scheduled for 27–30 May 2026 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Our theme, America at 250, invites us to consider the full span of stories and experiences that have shaped this nation—not just its founding moments, but the generations that followed. We envision a program of sessions, workshops, and interactive experiences that reflect the many ways individuals, families, and communities have lived through, contributed to, and been affected by the unfolding American story.





**Please review and be prepared to vote on the proposed  
2026 Budget, Election of Officers, Bylaws and Standing Rules  
At the November 11 Meeting**

Columbine 2026 Proposed Budget		
<b>Income</b>		
	101 - Membership Dues	\$ 3,500
	Cash on hand	2,646
	<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 6,146
<b>Expenses</b>		
	200 - President	25
	205 - VP / Programs	1,400
	210 - Publicity Coordinator	75
	220 - Secretary	25
	230 - Treasurer	120
	235 - Newsletter Editor	120
	240 - Membership Coordinator	400
	245 - Education Coordinator	1,400
	305 - Equipment	100
	307 - Zoom Fees	161
	315 - Hospitality	0
	317- Door Prizes	180
	325 - Photographer	0
	330 - Public Acquisitions	0
	333 - Stern-NARA	100
	350 - Web Master	700
	400 - Bank Fees (box rental)	35
	405- Church Rental	900
	410 - Society Memberships	120
	415 - Miscellaneous	0
	422 - Credit Card Fees	50
	425 - Postal Box	210
	430 - Sales Tax and Licensing	25
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 6,146

**2026 Columbine Election Ballot**

*Officer Positions (Two-year Term)*

*Election of officers will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on November 11, 2025*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Vice President / Programs . . . . .</i>	<i>Marylee Hagen</i>
<i>Education Coordinator . . . . .</i>	<i>Donna Chrislip</i>
<i>Treasurer . . . . .</i>	<i>Sharol Bettencourt</i>

*Appointed Committee Chairs (Not voted on)*

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Acquisitions . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Auditor – 2 people . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Hospitality – 2 or 3 people . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Nominating – 3 people . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Photographer . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Publicity Co-chair . . . . .</i>	<i>Open</i>

***Columbine needs you!***

*We have many open positions that need volunteers. Membership participation contributes to the success of an organization. Ask a friend to co-chair a committee with you.*

*Remember - “Many hands make light work”*



## COLUMBINE GENEALOGY BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

### Barbara Elliott, Past President

These documents were last revised and voted on in 2023. In compliance with our Bylaws, four committee members have reviewed them and made necessary changes. Please look over the updates and vote at the November 11 meeting.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2023 BYLAWS

#### **Article IV** – Membership and Dues [page 1]

Added #2 – The Society does not discriminate as to age, race, color, religion, gender, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

#### **Article VI** – Officers [page 2]

Added #2 – Any appointed term of less than one year shall not be counted as a full term.

#### **Article VII** – Board of Directors [page 2]

Separated out the last two sentences which state

2. A failure of any elected officer to attend three consecutive meetings of the board without sufficient excuse acceptable to the board shall be considered as a resignation from that body.

3. Standing committee chairpersons shall attend at least one board meeting per quarter.

#### **Article VIII** – Duties of the Officers [page 3]

Section A. Duties:

1. President

b. Deleted “and Special Appointments”

3. Publicity Coordinator [page 4]

c. added after Social media “Editor, Web Editor and Newsletter Editor”

5. Secretary [page 4]

c. made the following changes “Society’s Bylaws, Standing Rules and Articles of Incorporation”

7. Membership Coordinator [page 4]

Deleted the following:

c. Maintain and distribute new member packets

e. provide address labels for the newsletter mailing

f. compile and distribute the annual membership directory

Changes made:

“new c. Maintain member and visitors’ log”

“new d. provide membership benefits, etc”

Section B. All officers shall [page 5]

Made these changes to 2. Added “Board of Directors” Deleted “This should be done in two signed copies, etc.” Deleted “should” after electronic copy and added “shall”

**Article IX** – Standing Committees and Special Appointments [page 5]  
Deleted from title “and Special Appointments”

Section A. Standing committees [page 5]

1. Standing committees shall be:

Deleted “Mailing Committee, Project Committee, and the word “and” after Social Media Editor. Added “and Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Delegate.”

3. Duties:

a. Auditing Committee

Made these changes: Audit the Society’s books each fiscal year, which is the same as a calendar year.

d. Deleted Mailing Committee.

New “d. Newsletter Editor

Deleted “2. Collect materials for publications”

Deleted on “3. For mailing and delivering them to the post office”

[page 6] Added i. Colorado Council Delegate

Added “1. Attend and prepare a report of the Council’s meetings for the board of directors.

Deleted Section B. Other Committees: [page 6]

Deleted Special Appointments a. and b.

New “Section B. Budgets and Reports:”

1. All Standing Committees shall:

b. Added “of Directors” Deleted “This should be done in two signed copies, etc.” Deleted “should” after electronic copy and added “shall”

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES**

Numbers were all updated.

New #1, #3. And #17.

Changes to the following:

2. Deleted “Each new member shall, etc.” and Added “Lifetime memberships are no longer offered, etc.”

4. Deleted second sentence “Members shall be removed from the published membership, etc.

7. Added “and” between Officers and Standing Committee. Deleted “and Special Appointees”. Added “The annual reports of officers and standing committees shall be considered permanent, etc.”

16. Added all of the items in “red and green”. These are instructions on what needs to be audited each year.

**NOTE:** The 2023 Bylaws and Standing Rules can be found on our website [www.ColumbineGenealogy.com/](http://www.ColumbineGenealogy.com/) in the ‘Members Only’ section.



**NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**COLUMBINE GENEALOGY**

**P.O. BOX 2074, CENTENNIAL, CO 80161-2074**

MEMBER NAME (1): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NAME (2): \_\_\_\_\_

(As it will appear on your name tag and in the Membership List)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (1): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (h or c): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (2): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (h or c): \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT SURNAMES ARE YOU RESEARCHING? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT LOCATIONS ARE YOU RESEARCHING? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to have the above research information included in tables and maps and maintained in a member-only portion of our website? **Circle one:** Yes or No

Columbine Genealogy is **member-operated** and **needs involvement** from each member. As a member, please select one or more of the following **volunteer** areas as your way to **support** Columbine Genealogy. Check, circle or underline your choice:

- Communications - Submit newsletter articles, Community outreach (libraries, marketing, social media)
- Genealogy - Teaching or translating, providing research, mentoring new members
- Share your Knowledge - Accounting, auditing, software, Zoom co-hosting, video recording/editing
- Help at meetings - room setup, photography, refreshments.

**New or Renewal Membership**

By joining any time after July 1, your membership will be active until December 31 of the following year.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

\$35.00 per individual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$45.00 per couple \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Columbine Genealogy General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Stern-NARA Fund (Record Digitization) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Columbine Genealogy Library Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For Membership Use Only**

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Check amount \_\_\_\_\_

Cash amount \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 09/10/2025

Please make your check payable to Columbine Genealogy, and mail to P. O. Box 2074, Centennial, CO 80121-2074. To pay with a credit card, see Columbine's website <https://columbinegenealogy.com/>, then use the orange "Join Us!" button to access "Join, Renew or Donate" on the menu at Friends Corner, our membership software.