



Family Footprints

Family · History · It's All Relative

Vol. 53, No. 2

First Quarter – April, May, June

Spring 2026

In This Issue:

Pension: Denied! – 1, 9,10
Thoughts From The President – 2
Columbine Meetings Schedule – 3
Programs – Education – SIG Previews – 3 - 6
Writers Group – 7
Fall Speakers Thank You – 7
Are You A Columbine Member? – 7
Welcome New Members – 8
Consumer Alert: FTM Support – 8
Freedom Plane National Tour - 11
250th Anniversary of the United States, Article 2 – 11
My Revolutionary War Heroes – 12-13
History Colorado - Twin Anniversaries – 14
2026 Wall That Heals Tour – 15-16
Colorado Cemetery Records Preservation Project - 16
Dr. Seuss Manuscript - 17
Mark Twain – 17
NGS Conference - 18
Family Footprints, Suggestion Box – 18
Enjoy Your Summer - 18

Website:

columbinegenealogy.com

Email:

ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com

**Columbine Genealogical
and Historical Society, Inc**

PO Box 2074

Centennial, CO 80161-2074

Our 53rd Year!

Established 1973

Cultural & Educational Organization 501(c) (3)

Newsletter Published Quarterly

Subscription included in membership dues

Member of



PENSION: *DENIED!*

– PART ONE –

PENSIONS FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

By Stephen Asay

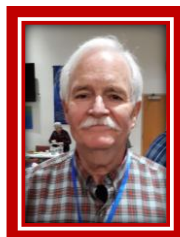
The historic records of Burlington County, New Jersey, contain many references to people with the surname Asay. However, the connections between these 18th century families, and the origin of the surname, remain mysteries. Many early Asay lineages are available online, and a few in print. None cite sources beyond other, un-sourced trees. Being that the families all appear in the same area, around the same time, I thought that there must be a connection between them and, ultimately, to me. While collecting everything I could find on the early New Jersey Asays, I came across a lengthy and detailed Revolutionary War pension packet. What clues could it offer? Could I have a connection to this soldier? What did I need to learn about the pension system to conduct effective research?

In the decades following the Revolutionary War, most of those who served as a common soldier for less than two or three years were not eligible for pensions or bounty land. They had done their duty, received their pay, and were expected to return to civilian life, picking up where they left off. As these men aged and the impoverished condition of many of them came to light,¹ public sentiment slowly changed. Congress passed acts in 1818 and 1820 granting pensions to those soldiers who had served in the Continental Army or become indigent or disabled. These veterans had gone without recognition for decades — a typical Revolutionary soldier would be in his 60s or older!

Continued on page 9

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Sean McGuire



Your Board of Directors (and dedicated Volunteers) have been busy. Five of us recently attended a Leadership Conference, and a number of us attended a strategic planning session on Tuesday, March 24, at Southglenn Library, 6972 South Vine Street (at the Streets of Southglenn Shopping Area) from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This meeting was open to the membership.

Just a couple years back we reduced the number of Directors on the Board from nine to seven. The main reason: we had vacancies we couldn't fill and had several months where we didn't have a quorum, and couldn't really make decisions. Now we have a vacancy, and it needs to be filled! Columbine Genealogy can't exist without volunteers. You wouldn't want us to just wither away, would you? Our secretary position can be filled by anyone who has been a member for one year. You don't have to live in the Denver area, since we meet by Zoom. Just attend our Board meetings on second Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the latest. Our meetings are recorded to assist you in writing what happened in the meetings. It's just that simple.

We also need someone who wants to learn how to be a webmaster. Nan Reubert has been wonderful, but she needs to direct her energy to some family developments. She'll be here until the end of the year, which gives us time for training. Please let me know if you're interested in either position. I can be reached at president@columbinegenealogy.com.

This is a great year - one in which to celebrate our 250th Anniversary as a formation of United States, and one in which to celebrate our 150th Anniversary as a state. Isn't living in Colorado wonderful? I think so. For our May Program Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, we will have an "open mic" (microphone) where you can share your stories about your ancestor from the Revolutionary War. We'll even let you speak if your ancestor was a Tory! It should be great fun; I sure have a few stories. Then after our summer break, at our September Program Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, we will have another open mic to talk about our ancestors who were part of Colorado's past. I'm looking forward to both programs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS – 2026

President

Sean McGuire

Vice President – Programs

Marylee Hagen

Secretary

Open Position

Treasurer

Sharol Bettencourt

Education Coordinators

Donna Chrislip & Stephen Asay

SIG coordinator

Barbara Elliott

Membership Coordinators

Jean Adams & Susan Hollis

Membership Software

Maggie Schmidt & Gary Witt

Publicity

Ann Kerr + Open Position

APPOINTED STANDING COMMITTEES

Acquisitions

Anita Burbank Jenkins

Auditing

Pam Rosendal & Chuck Towne

Bylaws & Standing Rules

Barbara Elliott

Calendar & Email Manager

Pam Rosendal

Colorado Council Representative

Nancy Berendt

Equipment

Neil Johnson

Hospitality Co-Chairs

Alicia Smart, Marge Healy

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

Writers Group

Becky Clark

Zoom Committee

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



Content, unless otherwise noted, is copyrighted 2026 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.

COLUMBINE GENEALOGY MEETINGS

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

Program Meetings 1:00 p.m. MT – 2nd 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 2nd Tuesday in December – **In-Person**

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

Special Interest Groups - open to CGHS Members Only

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

Do-Over (or Go-Over) 4th 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

Board of Directors Meetings 9:00 a.m. MT – 2nd 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 (president@columbinegenealogy.com).

Columbine Writers Group 10:00 a.m. MT – 3rd Wednesday of the month for members only **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

Find news updates at: 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 April 14 1:00 – 3:00 PM

DIARY OF A WWII B17 RADIO GUNNER



Presenter: Connie Masson is a retired educator who also worked in business and industry as a presenter and trainer on the use of technology in schools, businesses, and daily life. Connie is a member of the Louisville, Indian Peaks Chapter, National Society Daughters of the America Revolution, Colorado State Society NSDAR, Cameo Club, Evergreen, Rocky Mountain Crest Chapter, United States Daughters of the War of 1812 and Longmont Genealogy Society.

Description: This program was rescheduled from September, 2025. Hear about Connie’s father’s diaries kept from ages 19 to 21 in the Army Air Forces. Learn about “hitting the silk,” German troop trains, the Brig, and his rescue by Russian friendlies. He was MIA twice and a POW once.



In-Person and via Zoom

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

Tuesday May 12 1:00 – 3:00 PM

YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTOR

Help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country.

We'd like to hear a story about one of your ancestors at the time of the Revolutionary War as a part of our annual Spring Social on Tuesday, May 12. Your ancestor may have been directly involved in the fighting, perhaps supported it, or was involved in a completely different aspect of their life at the time. Perhaps your ancestor was on the side of the British! Or maybe your ancestor arrived in the colonies during wartime and was suspected of being a British spy! We're interested in hearing about the stories.

We invite you to share a 3-minute story with us, either in person or on Zoom, on May 12. Zoom storytellers are welcomed. If you participate in person, you may bring books, photos or artifacts for the display table. Start thinking about the story you want to share, and how you can stay within the time limit.

If you plan to share a tale of your American Revolutionary era ancestor on May 12, please contact Marylee Hagen, at programs@coloradogenealogy.com, to let her know.

Looking ahead a bit, we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Colorado, the Centennial State, at our meeting on September 8. Plan to tell a story of your Colorado pioneer ancestors at that time.



ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL

We will also have our **ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL**. Bring your favorite finger food to share and enjoy during the presentations.

In-Person and via Zoom

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

Skills Session

EDUCATION PREVIEWS

Donna Chrislip and Stephen Asay , Coordinators



Tuesday, April 21 1:00 – 3:00 PM

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR GENEALOGISTS



Presenter: Stephen Asay has been using Google Workspace and other cloud based collaborative tools, personally and professionally for many years. He considers Workspace his go-to tool for documents, spreadsheets and presentations.

Description: Google Workspace is a cloud based office suite providing collaborative tools for communication, content creation, and storage. Core components of Workspace include Docs, Sheets, Drive and Slides. Stephen will cover the use of Workspace apps to create, store and share documents.



Presented via Zoom only



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Special Interest Groups are a benefit available to Columbine Genealogy members only. Preregistration is required to receive your Zoom link. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining to enjoy exclusive benefits, expert guidance and a supportive community.



FAMILY TREE MAKER SOFTWARE

Facilitator: Barbara Elliott



We will work through the FTM Companion Guide (available for free on the MacKiev website), covering a chapter per month. **April's class** will discuss using Custom Reports.

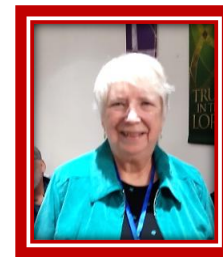
Thursday, April 23, 2026

Group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)
via Zoom

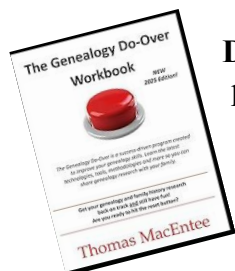
Preregistration is required.
Contact Barbara Elliot at ColumbineGenealogy@gmail.com to register.



“DO OVER (or GO OVER)”



Facilitator: Jean Adams will lead these sessions with the assistance of volunteer attendees using Thomas MacEntee’s book “**The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook.**” available on Amazon, \$8.99 plus shipping in soft cover, also available on Kindle. Free downloads available at <https://genealogybargains.com>.



Description: Do-Over Book Study SIG. Members of Columbine Genealogy have been participating in a Special Interest Group (SIG) monthly in 2025 and 2026 to study Thomas MacEntee’s “Do-Over Book” 2025 Edition. I think all the members of this book study group agree that it is a big chore, one that cannot be accomplished in a single year. The following are my observations as the SIG facilitator:

1. Many of the participants are doing a “Go Over” instead of a full “Do Over.” We are making sure that each fact has a citation in our software. My personal goal is to “Go Over” all the pieces of paper relating to a brick wall and make sure they are in Family Tree Maker and Ancestry. Then I’m throwing away the piece of paper. My goal is to eliminate the two shelves of three ring binders in my bookcase as well as solve a brick wall.
2. As researchers, we know that citations take time to do fully and correctly. In addition to Thomas’ book, we found ourselves reviewing Elizabeth Shown Mills’ books on citations. We liked the shorter version of her Evidence Explained book called Your Stripped-Bare Guide to Citing Sources (2017), available in book and quick sheet formats. Some members have experienced URL links that went away and noted that our typed comments in citations stay.
3. A famous quote says, “Misery loves company.” In our SIG that “company” helped with the misery and applauded small steps and giant steps. Our group had some mid-year accomplishments: Barb Elliott disposed of 4 barrels of paper, Stephen Asay started over using “new-to-him” software Roots Magic, Kathy Thompson created a Lucid chart for a DNA brick wall, Russ Frum used Airtables in place of Excel spreadsheets, Linda Harlaub started a new tree from scratch on Legacy, Melissa Foremny started a new tree from scratch in Family Tree Maker, Bev Harbourn cleared up a 26 page list of Family Tree Maker errors and I eliminated two 3-ring binders.

Halfway through our study year, I learned that there is now a 2026 edition available of Thomas’ Do Over book that includes information about using AI in genealogy. I would encourage everyone to get a copy of the 2026 edition of this book. Following Thomas’ AI prompts from this new book, I was amazed at the two-page evidence analysis that Gemini generated. Gemini is the free Google App that I used. The 2026 book is easy to read and might encourage you to delve into research that you had already considered complete. Paperback copies are available on Amazon and downloadable versions are available on Kindle apps. Watch for FREE download offers at www.genealogybargains.com.

If you are a Columbine member and are interested in participating or considering a “Do Over” or “Go Over” of your research, a member of this SIG could be your mentor and help you get started. If interested, contact me (Jean Adams) at jadams31216@gmail.com.

Monday, April 27 10:00 – 11:00

Monday, May 18 10:00 – 11:00

Presented via Zoom



WRITERS GROUP

Becky Clark, Chairperson

The Columbine Writers Group meets **via Zoom** each month on the third Wednesday at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. 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 to enjoy. For more information, contact Becky Clark at 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, April 15, 2026 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 10:00 – 12:00

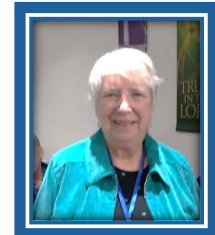
THANK YOU TO OUR WINTER 2026 SPEAKERS



Sylvia Tracy Doolos
Add Language Tools To
Your Family History
January 13



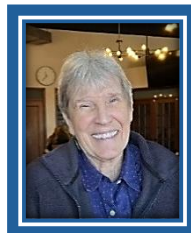
Brian Trembath
Building History Resources
February 10



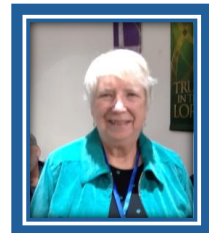
Jean Larson Adams
Do You Believe The
Family Story?
March 10



Susie Wickman
Mapping Your Family History
January 20



Barbara Elliott
Using FamilySearch
February 17
Family Tree Maker
1/22/26 – 2/26/26 – 3/26/26



Jean Larson Adams
“Do Over (Go Over)”
1/26/26 – 2/23/26 – 3/23/26



ARE YOU A COLUMBINE MEMBER?

• ENJOY MEMBERSHIP PERKS •

Membership gives you access to the handouts for previous programs and skill sessions as far back as 2022. Maybe you need help with AI, check out “When Genealogy Meets Artificial Intelligence. Another helpful handout “Homestead Records” can assist you with your search. The handouts will refresh your memory and assist with finding helpful information. Just go to columbinegenealogy.com, select the Members tab and scroll down to select Handouts then choose the one you want.



Jean Adams & Susan Hollis Membership Co-Chairs

M. Mary Coyle, Littleton, CO – returning member

Barb Gardner, Lafayette, CO - I have been a “lurker” on the Columbine site for a couple years. Your group is so nice to let non-members listen to the lectures. But I wanted to get in on the members only activities, so I joined. I started my genealogy in the 1980s with kids and a job, so didn’t get very far. We had to go to a center and look at little cards! My mother was a Jones and told me never to try to find them because there were so many of them. It’s now one of my longest branches going back to 1650 in England!! When the pandemic hit, I pulled out all the boxes of stuff I had inherited and accumulated. I sorted and scanned and filed. Then I joined groups and I was hooked. With little else to do, I kept sane looking for ancestors and have continued long after the quarantine. I’m guessing many of you have the same story. I am a member of Longmont Genealogy, Colorado Genealogical Society, W.I.S.E, German, and Irish groups and more. I look forward to working with the group.

Debbie Greenlaw – South Carolina

Jennie Gunther, Raleigh, NC -

Gretchen Perryman, Louisville, KY – returning member

Paula Riebe, Littleton, CO -

Martha Van Driel, Greeley, CO -

As new members you can access “Member Perks” in our Columbine Friends Corner under Members Only. Check it out and see what additional benefits are available to members.

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

CONSUMER ALERT: FAMILY TREE MAKER SUPPORT

Genealogists are advised to avoid a misleading “Family Tree Maker Support” website familytreesupport.com. Despite the name, similar branding, and high placement in Google search results, the site is **not** affiliated with Family Tree Maker or its parent company, MacKiev. The official Family Tree Maker support page is supportmackiev.com. “Family Tree Maker Support” has existed for years but in January came to the renewed attention of long-time blogger, Thomas MacEntee of genealogybargains.com.

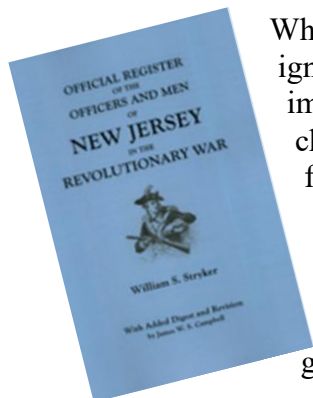


The “Family Tree Maker Support” site is operated by a company called Tane Innovative Concepts LLC, which also has a related YouTube channel and unofficial support websites for RootsMagic, iOS devices and Windows devices. Third-party “support” sites are often scams that request remote access to an unsuspecting user’s computer, then demand unnecessary fees to “fix” a software problem. Such sites pose extreme security risks to your data.

This article is courtesy of the Adams County Genealogical Society – Vanessa Pacheco, Newsletter Editor

PENSION: DENIED!*Continued from Page 1*

The pension application process required veterans to appear before local courts and testify about their service and the current financial condition of themselves and their families. Many soldiers described their service in great detail, including commanding officers, the locations of their service, battles fought in, their date of birth and information about their financial state, spouses and children. Fortunately for genealogists, many of these written testimonials survive and are available online.

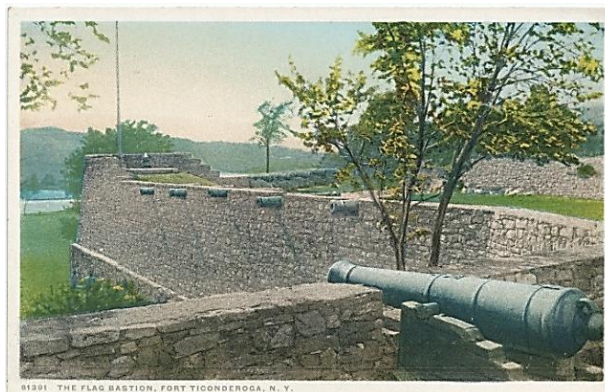


While the 1818 and 1820 pension acts provided relief for long-suffering veterans, ignored were those veterans who may have been struggling, but were not impoverished, as well as the thousands of men who had served in state militias. That changed on June 7, 1832, when Congress passed "An Act supplementary to the 'Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution.'"² This act, informally known as the Pension Act of 1832, provided pensions for all soldiers who served at least six months in the Continental Army, state militia or volunteer military organizations. Veterans who served for two years or more were granted full pensions, while those who served between six months and two years were given partial pensions, depending on the duration of their service.³

Following the passage of the 1832 pension act, tens of thousands of newly eligible veterans — now approaching 80 years of age — applied for pensions. This deluge was so much greater than anticipated that the small pension office in the War Department could not keep up and the backlog grew large.^{4,5} The office was in need of improved organization and leadership, and in 1833 Congress approved the first Commissioner of Pensions, to be appointed by the president. James L. Edwards was selected and served in that role through several presidencies. While the efficiency of the pension office improved, the process remained the same. Veterans and witnesses had their statements recorded and validated by a local court where they lived and these documents were forwarded to Washington for approval. The affidavits, statements, supporting documents and subsequent correspondence were collected in file folders, and these are the records we can harvest today.

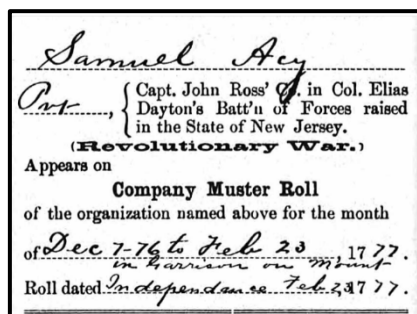
As word of the increased availability of pensions spread, one of the many applicants was Samuel Asay of Burlington County, New Jersey. After enlisting in the 3rd New Jersey regiment at the age of 22 in March 1776, Asay and his fellow "Jersey Greys" marched north through New Jersey and traveled up the Hudson River Valley by boat. The group was ordered west to Rome, New York, in the Mohawk River valley. Here they spent three months rebuilding the former British Fort Stanwix, to be renamed Fort Schulyer, for use by the Americans. The regiment was then sent back east, where they spent five months at Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence.^{6,7} These two fortresses sat on opposite sides of Lake Champlain, Ticonderoga on the west, in New York, and Independence to the east, in Vermont. In the fall of 1776, the mere sight of these two forts and their 12,000 troops had sent the British scurrying back to Canada to spend the winter, delaying their southern advance until the following summer.

By the time Samuel arrived at Fort Ticonderoga in December of 1776, most of the soldiers had left, either to join Washington in New Jersey, or just to go home. The fortifications had been built, the British were safely encamped in Canada for the winter, and there was probably little to do but maintain the installations. In March 1777, his one-year term of enlistment over, Private Asay made his way back home to New Jersey.



The Flag Bastion, Fort Ticonderoga, N. Y.

Samuel turned out once again in late 1777 as a substitute for one Israel Coates. He served one month in the Burlington County Militia, never leaving New Jersey, but increasing his total service time to about 13 months.



In November of 1832, Samuel Asay applied for a pension based on his Revolutionary War service fifty-five years earlier. That application was denied, and the reason given was that he had not served the six month minimum.

In part two, we'll look at why Samuel Asay was denied the pension to which he was entitled.

* * * *To be continued* * * *

Further Reading

The Monmouth County, New Jersey, Clerk's website provides an excellent overview of the pension system, as well as images of some pension applications generated in that county. The full text of the Pension Act of 1832 can be found on GovTrack. See the Notes for links to these sources.

The Department of Veterans Affairs website includes an exhibit titled "History of VA in 100 Objects". In addition to the two items referenced above, there are many items concerning veterans from Revolutionary to very recent times. (<https://department.va.gov/history/va-100-objects/>)

Ancestry and FamilySearch both have many databases covering Revolutionary War muster rolls and bounty and pension applications

1 "Object 7: Portrait of Revolutionary War Veteran Joseph Winter", VA History, (<https://department.va.gov/history/100-objects/object-7-portrait-joseph-winter/>).

2 "Twenty-second Congress. Sess. I. Ch. 126 1832", GovTrack, (<https://govtrackus.s3.amazonaws.com/legislink/pdf/stat/4/STATUTE-4-Pg529.pdf>).

3 "Regulations Under the Act of June 7, 1832", fort-plank.com, (https://www.fortplank.com/1832_Pension_Regulations.pdf). An imperfect transcription, but the intent is pretty clear.

4 "Object 50: Commissioner of Pensions Annual Report", VA History, (<https://department.va.gov/history/100-objects/object-50-commissioner-of-pensions/>).

5 "Revolutionary War Pensions at the Monmouth County Archives", Monmouth County Clerk, (<https://www.monmouthcountyclerk.gov/revolutionary-war-pensions-at-the-monmouth-county-archives/>).

6 "U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900", database with images, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1995/images/MIUSA1775D_134647-00017), A > Armstrong, Jabez - Azelip, Richard > Asay, Samuel - Ashcroft, John, image 15, file R273, citing Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (NARA microfilm publication M804, 2,670 rolls). Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

7 "History", 3rd New Jersey Regiment - Jersey Greys, (<https://www.jerseygreys.org/history.html>). The account of Asay's movements was taken from his pension application. It generally agrees with that given here.



FREEDOM PLANE NATIONAL TOUR: DOCUMENTS THAT FORGED A NATION

May 28, to June 14, 2026

The National Archives and Records Administration and the National Archives Foundation will bring our nation’s founding documents around the country in a traveling exhibition. This exhibition is a signature initiative of the American 250 – Colorado 150 Commission. Our own History Colorado Center will be one of only eight museums receiving this special collection. The tour will run from March through August. The display at History Colorado will be held May 28 through June 14, 2026.



These structural documents from our country’s history have never been outside of Washington, D. C. together. The exhibit will include the following significant documents:

- * Original Engraving of the Declaration of Independence, 1823
- * Articles of Association, 1774
- * George Washington’s, Alexander Hamilton’s and Aaron Burr’s Oaths of Allegiance, 1778
- * Treaty of Paris, 1783
- * Secret Printing of the Constitution in Draft Form, 1787
- * Tally of Votes Approving the Constitution, 1787
- * Markup in the U. S. Senate of what would become the Bill of Rights



To obtain tickets please contact History Colorado, 1200 Broadway, Denver, (303) 447-8679



ANNIVERSARY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Article 2



By Barbara Elliott

We’re getting closer to America’s birthday of July 4th. Looking back at the history of our country, it has grown from 13 colonies to 50 states. What foresight our founding fathers had in setting up a government that was similar to what they knew in England, but different enough that we have presidents instead of kings and queens.



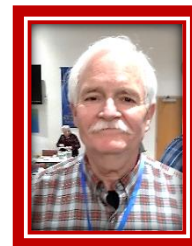
Realizing that our new country needed laws and currency that encompassed all the colonies not just individual colonies. These men came up with the Constitution, which sets up the government in three branches, each exercising a distinct power: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.



This Constitution set up a government that is limited to delegated powers and limited government. Americans should be proud of our founding fathers’ intuitiveness in creating this document that has lasted 250 years.

MY REVOLUTIONARY WAR HEROES

By Sean McGuire



As our country celebrates its 250th Anniversary, it's time to commemorate the sacrifices of our ancestors. These are my stories. I have at least thirty-two ancestors who served in the United States Revolutionary War. The following information is the best I have to-date. No stolen valor is attempted here. The first two ancestors were killed in the Revolutionary War.

Lt. John McClelland (1740-1777)

Lt. McClelland is my fifth great-grandfather via my maternal grandmother, Frances Viola McClellan. He was born in the Province of Pennsylvania and was the grandson of an Irishman or Scots-Irishman. He was ordered to establish an outpost in western Virginia Colony, and travelled down the Ohio River from the area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his troop and family (pregnant wife and seven small children). They used birch-bark canoes, accompanied by a herd of cattle and horses alongside, and made their way to a spring near what is now Georgetown, Scotty County, Kentucky. There they established a fortified compound called McClelland's Station.

Unfortunately, a band of Mingo warriors led by Chief Pluggy, aligned with the English, attacked McClelland's Station on December 29, 1776. Chief Pluggy was killed on January 1, 1777, and my fifth great-grandfather succumbed to his injuries on January 8, 1777. John McClelland's history is documented in one of the first published court cases in Kentucky, involving a boundary dispute. I find it interesting that Daniel Boone was involved in surveying my family's land.

Private Johann Peter Federolf, Jr. (1738-1777)

Private Federolf is my sixth great-grandfather via my maternal grandfather, George Irvin Fetterolf. He was born in the Province of Pennsylvania and was the son of an immigrant from Baden-Wurtemberg, Prussia. I know little of Private Federolf's sacrifice. He is buried near his home near Seisholtzille, Pennsylvania in the family burial site, the Rothermel-Federolf-Bittenbender Cemetery. He left behind a widow and six children. I have visited this cemetery, which unfortunately was vandalized many decades ago. Most of the tombstones were smashed beyond recognition. Unfortunately, well-intentioned people cleaned up the debris, moving most of the stones to the side.

The following ancestors of my maternal grandfather, George Irvin Fetterolf, served in the Revolutionary War in Pennsylvania Province and lived to tell about it:

Private Johannes Aumiller (1735-1815), 6th GGF

Private Johann Michael Braun (1724-1785), 6th GGF

Private Michael Dress or Treece (1749-1808), 6th GGF

Private Michael Emerick (1749-1832), 5th GGF

Private Francis Gramley (1756-1833), 5th GGF

Private Mathias Harter (1737-1790), 6th GGF

Private Samuel Homan (1755-1824), 6th GGF

Private John Martin Kerstetter (1754-1815), 5th GGF

Private Wilhelm Krape (1751-1833), 5th GGF

Private Jacob Krick, Sr. (1731-1823), 6th GGF

Lt. Col. Nicholas Lotz or Lutz (1740-1807), 6th GGF
 Private Johannes Ritter (1743-1816), 6th GGF
 Private George Christian Spangler (1728-1802), 6th GGF
 Private Hans Jacob Wagner (1725-1802), 6th GGF
 Captain Michael Weaver (1722-1801), 6th GGF
 Private Johannes John Weaver (1751-1823), 5th GGF and son of Michael Weaver

The following ancestors of my maternal grandmother, Frances Viola McClellan, served in the Revolutionary War and lived:

Private Clemens Dunkelberger, Jr. (1752-1801), 5th GGF
 Private Henry Goss (1743-1788), 6th GGF
 Private Peter Goss, Sr. (1763-1845), 5th GGF and son of Henry Goss
 (Peter entered the war at age 13 as a Matross (gunner assistant))
 Private Johannes Hartman (1720-1777), 6th GGF
 Private Johannes John Knerr (1747-1825), 5th GGF
 Private Georg Jacob Knepp (1753-1833), 5th GGF
 Private Johann Heinrich Moll, Sr (1734-1809), 5th GGF
 Captain Johannes Musser (1741-1810), 5th GGF
 Sgt. John Sechler, Sr. (1739-1831), 5th GGF



The following ancestors of my paternal grandmother, Bernice Connelly served in the Revolutionary war and lived:

Lt. Shadrach Hubbell (1739-1816), 5th GGF
 Private John Killpatrick (1735-1834), 5th GGF
 Private Mordecai Millard, Sr (1736-1794), 5th GGF
 Private Caspar Ritter (1747-1822), 5th GGF
 Private Jacob Rush (1755-1850), 5th GGF

Interesting fact: Private Caspar Ritter (1747-1822), my father's ancestor and Private Johannes Ritter (1743-1816), my mother's ancestor were first cousins.

My paternal grandfather's family are relatively recent immigrants from Ireland, and were not in North America at the time of the war.

Also from my paternal grandmother's lineage is my 3rd cousin, eight times removed, Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813). Dr. Rush was a member of the Second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was Surgeon General of the Middle Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and is the father of American Psychiatry.

And from my paternal grandmother's lineage, a special recognition for my 9th great-grandfather, Edward Spalding, Sr. (1596-1670). An indentured servant at Virginia Colony in 1619, Edward is the ancestor of over 200 soldiers serving in the Revolutionary War.



History Colorado

COMMEMORATING TWIN ANNIVERSARIES: AMERICA 250 - COLORADO 150 AT HISTORY COLORADO

By Angelika Albaladejo, History Colorado



Colorado is commemorating a once-in-a-generation anniversary: 150 years since Colorado became a state and 250 years since the United States' founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence. At the History Colorado Center in Denver (1200 N Broadway), a series of exhibitions are exploring our nation and state's origin stories – sharing a Western perspective on how this country came to be.

An array of treasures never before gathered in Colorado offers the chance to see the things that witnessed history. From a silver spoon made by the revolutionary Paul Revere to rare 17th century maps drawn by Spanish explorers, History Colorado visitors can get up close with artifacts from some of the most monumental moments in our history.

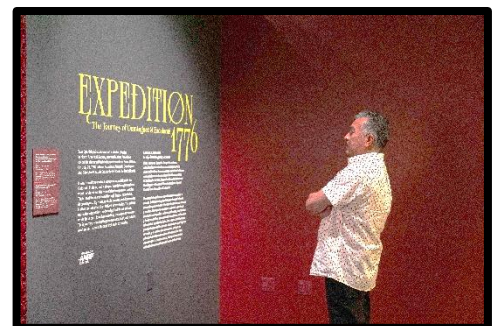
The History Colorado Center is open every day from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is always free for children and members (with annual memberships starting at \$45). You can learn more and get your tickets or memberships at www.historycolorado.org/history-colorado-center.

Moments that Made US brings together more than fifty treasures never before displayed together – bringing you a rare opportunity to see the extraordinary stories and unique perspectives that made our country what it is today. The spurs George Washington wore during the revolutionary winter at Valley Forge. The inkwell in which generals dipped their pens to sign the terms ending the Civil War. The tape recorder that added to the mystery of President Richard Nixon's many secrets during the Watergate investigation. This exhibition spans eight hundred years of American history – revealing the struggles, triumphs, and resilience that have shaped the nation.



38th Star: Colorado Becomes the Centennial State shares Colorado's origin story in all of its tension and intrigue, with powerful interests clashing on a long road to statehood. Why did it take five tries and more than fifteen years to become the 38th star on our nation's flag? Through a unique collection of photographs, artifacts and voices – you'll see why each attempt at statehood came with challenges and opportunities.

Expedition 1776: The Journey of Domínguez & Escalante shows how at the same time that the founding fathers were signing the Declaration of Independence on the East coast, one of the earliest European expeditions was traversing the treacherous terrain of the West. This exhibition traces the exploration of two Spanish priests whose maps – spanning what is now Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico – shaped where people settled and created essential trade routes for centuries to come.



2026 “THE WALL THAT HEALS” TOUR SCHEDULE

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced *The Wall That Heals* national tour schedule for 2026. A special display date on the island of O’ahu in January will be the first stop of the 2026 tour. On March 19th, the rest of the season kicks off in Woodland Hills, California.

The exhibit will visit a total of 31 communities in 2026. *The Wall That Heals* exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.



City	Host	Opening	Closing
Kapolei, HI	The Wall That Heals – O’ahu 2026	1/14/26	1/19/26
Woodland Hills, CA	Jewish War Veterans Post 603	3/19/26	3/22/26
Orland, CA	Glenn County, CA Welcomes The Wall That Heals	3/26/26	3/29/26
Surprise, AZ	City of Surprise	4/9/26	4/12/26
Del Rio, TX	Finding Our Brothers and Sisters Del Rio TX	4/16/26	4/19/26
Ranger, TX	Ranger College Welcomes The Wall That Heals	4/23/26	4/26/26
Butler, MO	Bates County The Wall That Heals	4/30/26	5/3/26
Bartlesville, OK	Phillips 66 Veterans Network	5/7/26	5/10/26
Edmond, OK	VFW 4938	5/14/26	5/17/26
Council Bluffs, IA	Pottawattamie County	5/22/26	5/25/26
Reynolds, IN	Community Foundation of White County WGT	6/4/26	6/7/26
Brookings, SD	The Wall That Heals – Brookings, SD	6/11/26	6/14/26
Lacey, WA	The Wall That Heals – Saint Martin’s University	6/25/26	6/28/26
Billings, MT	Yellowstone Veterans Committee	7/2/26	7/5/26
Afton, WY	Wyoming Welcomes The Wall That Heals	7/9/26	7/12/26
Manning, IA	Manning The Wall That Heals	7/23/26	7/26/26
Brooklyn, IA	The Wall That Heals, Brooklyn, IA	7/30/26	8/2/26

White Bear Township, MN	White Bear Lake Area Historical Society	8/6/26	8/9/26
Taylor, MI	The Wall That Heals – Taylor, MI	8/13/26	8/16/26
Battle Creek, MI	Calhoun County Red, White & Blue Foundation	8/20/26	8/23/26
Wadsworth, OH		8/27/26	8/30/26
Campbelltown, PA	Campbelltown Post 831 Presents The Wall That Heals	9/3/26	9/6/26
Putnam, CT	Veterans & The Community of Putnam CT	9/10/26	9/13/26
Yarmouth, MA	The Wall That Heals Yarmouth-2026	9/17/26	9/20/26
Oneonta, NY	Upstate NY Remembers	9/24/26	9/27/26
St. Clairsville, OH	Belmont County	10/1/26	10/4/26
Aston, PA		10/8/26	10/11/26
Cookeville, TN	Putnam County	10/22/26	10/25/26
Evansville, IN		10/29/26	11/1/26
Lancaster, SC	Lancaster County VA Office	11/5/26	11/8/26
Spindale, NC	The Wall That Heals Rutherford County, NC	11/12/26	11/15/26

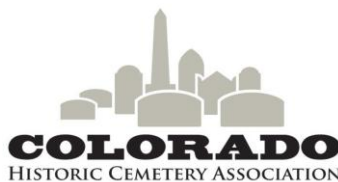
With special thanks to our presenting sponsor:



With special thanks to our generous sponsor:



In partnership with:



coloradohistoriccemeteries.org

COLORADO CEMETERY RECORDS PRESERVATION PROJECT

CHCA is looking for volunteers to help with their cemetery preservation project. Volunteers will identify, locate and facilitate the preservation of cemetery records in their communities, using published inventories. Then they will prepare and add their findings to the statewide searchable database. Your participation will help preserve community history for generations to come.

For further details on the project contact Patricia Carmody Info@coloradohistoriccemeteries.org.

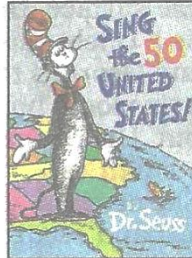
NEW DISCOVERY

Manuscript by Dr. Seuss will celebrate America's anniversary

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

A newly discovered Dr. Seuss manuscript featuring the Cat in the Hat and celebrating the United States will be published next year, just in time for America's 250th anniversary.

"Sing the 50 United States" is the first full manuscript written by Dr. Seuss — born Theodor Geisel — to be discovered since the posthumous release of "What Pet Should I Get?" in 2015. The new book aims to teach readers the names of the states. "To sing the 50 United States, you have to use your brain," the Cat



tana. M-i-s-s-Mississippi. Maryland! Michigan and Maine!"

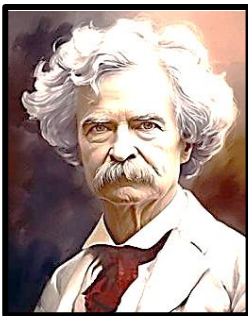
"Uncovering a new work from Ted is like finding a time capsule of his imagination," says Susan Brandt, president and CEO of Dr. Seuss Enterprises. "Sing the 50 States' celebrates his boundless creativity, genius with words, and enduring ability to inspire

in the young readers everywhere. Hat advises. "Massachusetts. Minnesota. Missouri and

The manuscript was found earlier this year in archival materials at the Geisel Library at The University California San Diego. Geisel also left behind a cover sketch and notes on the overall art direction. New illustrations were done by artist Tom Brannon, in the style of Dr. Seuss. Random House Children's Books will publish the book on June 2, 2026, with a first printing of 500,000 copies.

Denver Post – Book Review Section – February 2026

Submitted by Ginger Van Zyl



SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS

MARK TWAIN

11/30/1835 – 4/21/1910

Mark Twain was born November 30, 1835 as Halley's Comet was flying right over his hometown of Florida, Missouri.

Halley's Comet appears every 76 years. Albert Bigelow Paine's 1912 biography of Twain quoted Twain's death prediction. "I came in with Halley's comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'"

Twain apparently was aware of his heart trouble, but not the degree of seriousness, when he made his prediction.

The day after the comet's brightest point Mark Twain died on April 21, 1910 in Redding, Connecticut.





NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

May 27 – 30, 2026

Join the National Genealogical Society in Fort Wayne for their 48th Annual Family History Conference. The theme is “**America at 250.**” Consider the generations of stories and experiences that shaped this nation.

YOUR FAMILY FOOTPRINTS NEWSLETTER

Jeanie Blanchard, Editor



Think about contributing something for our next issue. Your article can be a couple of paragraphs or a couple of pages. This is the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the 150th Anniversary of Colorado’s statehood. Do you have something you would like to relate about either of these anniversaries?

Maybe you don’t feel confident enough to submit an article. This is a great reason for you to join the **Writers Group** to help you enhance your writing technique.

Please send your article for the July newsletter by June 1. If you have questions send them to newsletter@columbinegenealogy.com and I will respond.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the newsletter. It is a team effort.



SUGGESTION BOX

Do you have an idea or suggestion that you would like to share with Columbine? Maybe you have a genealogy subject you would like presented at a meeting. Or you have a comment about a prior program. Maybe you have an idea about something Columbine might do. We are open to all suggestions. Your ideas matter!

Just send an email to President Sean McGuire at president@columbinegenealogy.com and he will forward all suggestions to the appropriate committee for action.



Fill your time with lots of genealogy research!

Columbine Genealogy meetings will take a break for June, July and August. Use this time to advance your genealogy research. We hope you are successful in finding your family stories. Then you can tell us all about your genealogy discoveries when we meet again in September.