



Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 37 No. 3

July, August, September

July 2010

PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

14 Sep 1:00 Program

"Searching with Family Search"
FHC Director Wallace Carroll

21 Sep 9:30 Early Bird

"Getting Back into the Groove"
"CGHS Website and Bemis Catalog"
Don Elliott, CGHS Webmaster
"Writing for Records"
Barb Walker, Columbine member

21 Sep 1:00 Program

"Researching at NARA"
NARA staff member

12 Oct 1:00 Program

"The Story of Enoch: Finding My Grandfather"
Swedish Gen Soc Don Peterson

19 Oct 9:30 Early Bird

"Researching the States: CT, IA, IN, KS, MD, MO, and SD"
Columbine Membership

19 Oct 1:00 Program

"Sneak Peek at the 1940 Census!"
CastleRock Gen Soc Board Members

9 Nov 1:00 Program

Election;
"HeritageQuest"
Columbine Member Nedra Fortune

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For more information contact:

- CJ Backus, Program Chair
- Barb Walker/Judy Phelps, Education Co-Chairs

Breaking Down Brick Walls (with Acts of Genealogy Kindness)

By Marilyn Smith

Working on family files day after day and hitting brick walls one after the other can leave you frustrated and with little or no motivation to continue. So it was with me. One day I simply could not face trying one more time to find the way through, over or around one seemingly impenetrable wall. On this particular day, I had been digging through a county history I own, "Yazoo, Its Legends and Legacies", for some added hints on my maternal ancestors. The history, written using grants from the bi-centennial commissions and published in 1976, covers the genesis of Yazoo County, Mississippi, through the Reconstruction era after the War Between the States. I have found it an invaluable resource in allowing me to understand the place where my maternal ancestors were during that time period. It is now out of print and very expensive to purchase in secondary markets but can be found in libraries.

As part of the writing of the book, interviews were done with older county residents and about 130 short family genealogies were included at the back of the book. After reading a couple of the sketches of non-family members, I thought, "Maybe if I can't find my own family I might help someone else find theirs if I put enough information online to point them to the book."

Since I use Ancestry to connect with "internet cousins" and find copies of historical documents, this seemed the logical place to start. I figured if I used the information to build family trees and added some transcriptions of tidbits from the biographies many people might find the information and their interest would be piqued.

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*Meet A Genealogy Friend
at Columbine*

Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc.

Colorado Corporation (1976)
Cultural & Educational
Organization
(I.R.S. 501 C-3)

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Colorado Council of
Genealogical Societies

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National Genealogical Society

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Genealogical Societies

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<http://www.columbinegenealogy.com/>

Message from the President

The hot months of summer are upon us! Looking back over the last few months it's nice to see that there were some exciting and worthwhile things that Columbine and its members have been involved with.

First is the June 5th Symposium. A big "Thank You" has to be given to our 1st Vice President, CJ Backus. What a great job she did pulling the whole day together. It was a huge success. Some of the different ways of researching that our speaker Laura Prescott told us about will keep us busy all summer and beyond.

The May Luncheon and Used Book Sale was as usual a fun time for members to get together and buy books, chat, eat and enjoy the day. Big thanks go out to the Refreshment Committee, headed by Eleanor Spence, for all their hard work. Everything was fantastic. Also a thank you to Ways & Means, Cheryl & Ron Floberg for getting the book sale set up. It, as usual, went very well.

The Salt Lake trip to the Family History Library in April was again helpful to several members in piecing together their family histories. For those of you that have not been to Salt Lake it really is an experience that you should try to have at least once. The amount of information the library has is unbelievable. For those unable to travel to all the places our ancestors lived, this is the next best thing.

I have heard so many positive things about the genealogy classes that the Education Coordinators have put together. Thanks to Judy Phelps and Barbara Walker for getting Columbine classes going again. One of the classes this fall may be an intermediate class. Can't wait!

One comment about the workings of Columbine. The nominating Committee is working hard to fill the Board positions for 2011. Please be receptive when they call you. I know from experience that you will find working for the good of Columbine a fun and worthwhile experience. So if you get a phone call from Alison Gibbens, Shirley Jenkins or Betty Marsland please say you will help. If they don't call you give them a call. You'll be glad you did.

Enjoy your summer and find lots of pieces to your family history puzzles.

Sandi Klein

Programs and Workshops (continued)

16 Nov 9:30 Early Bird
"You've Found a Vintage Photo—Now
What?" Karen Zink,
photographer & genealogist

14 Dec Holiday Party
12:00 Potluck Luncheon
1:00 Merry Christmas Program
Columbine Members

16 Nov 1:00 Program
"Reference Books Every
Genealogist Needs to Use"
Bette Kot, published author & genealogist

You can find handouts from our past programs on the CGHS website at <http://www.columbinegenealogy.com>.

Breaking Down Brick Walls with Acts of Genealogical Kindness (Continued from page 1.)

So I began a project called "Yazoo and Allied Families". I expanded the information from the book by linking to source documents, census and matching family trees. It is challenging since I do not really know the families on which I work. I try to be very careful with what I cite. It is very rewarding and it does provide that wonderful high of discovery and a few wonderful "Aha" moments. I have found bits and pieces of my own families buried in those genealogies too.

But the best part is the satisfaction of hearing from people who have used information I supplied to add another limb to their trees. Two very recent contacts were from descendants of some of the slave

families mentioned in the book. Of course they want to know how I fit into the family and I explain I don't in recent history but if we look closely back in the shadows of time we can find the connections.

Best of all, I find I have been excited to resume the work on my own missing links, so it is truly a win/win for all concerned. I highly recommend doing something for another searcher. It will energize you.

* * *

Marilyn Smith, a CGHS member, attributes her passion for helping others to the example of Ann Lisa Pearson. Following are excerpts from a written interview with Marilyn.

"A few years ago Ann Lisa encouraged us to publish something. . . anything. It was a summer assignment as I recall. As a result, I put together my primary family history, about the lives and families of my siblings as well as my mother and father. This book was also in answer to my sister's daughters who, after my sister's death, repeatedly asked, "What was it like when. . ." or "What do you know about grandma's. . ." I published it for the family. (Some liked what they read while others had a different memory of the events.) But without the encouragement and prodding of Ann Lisa it would never have gotten started. Now I have done two other documents and am working on another. Thank you Ann Lisa."



January 19—"Flickr" (Carol and Randy Stall)



February 9—"The Lay of the Land: Topographic Maps for Genealogists" (Wendel Cox)



January 19—"Unlocking the Secrets of the Family History Library Card Catalog" (Barbara Walker)



February 16—"Salt Lake City: Here We Come" (Marilyn Elrod)

2010 CGHS Programs



January 12—"Family Tree Maker 2010" (Mary Heinritz)

Looking Backward, Looking Forward

--Judith S. Phelps, Education Coordinator

During the summer while you play and travel, CGHS Education Coordinators will be **busy organizing activities for the program year starting in September**. It doesn't seem possible, but Barb and I have completed a program year as CGHS coordinators of education. In the process, we have facilitated two beginning classes and hosted several early bird sessions on various topics. The feedback has been gracious and encouraging and we look forward to hosting more educational activities where we can all learn something new by sharing with colleagues. One tidbit of **information from your research may fit with someone else's research, moving you both forward**.

Classroom activities for the beginning classes at Bemis Public Library involved presentations, discussions, hands-on computer activities, and library tours. During **our first lab session, one attendee said in a whisper, "I just found my grandpa!"** In another class, held during the screening of the popular TV series *Who Do You Think You Are?* a participant shared that in the episode featuring Sarah Jessica Parker, he saw the snow brushed from the tombstone of a direct-line ancestor. By sharing that goose-bump experience, he discovered a new cousin in the same class also descended from the same ancestor! Another participant brought in a photograph of her grandmother and we all marveled at the nearly identical resemblance. During a final lab session, we stood at the back of the room totally amazed, as we observed a different type of record displayed on each of the dozen computer screens.

While the early bird topics were diverse, the favorite from an audience perspective seemed to be the round table discussion featuring selected states. Participants left the session with new ideas and incentives to continue their research. Each of the featured states was hosted by a table host who led discussions and provided maps and resources relevant to their state. One participant found a missing link in one of the books brought by another attendee. During a discussion with colleagues working in the state of Kentucky, one participant scaled a brick wall and advanced his genealogy by generations.

Another popular early-bird session involved a guest speaker who shared her expertise about resources useful for Civil War era research. Following this session, a seasoned researcher volunteered that he was inspired to again pick up a piece of research which he had previously declared dead-ended. Members are now asking for a similar session on the Revolutionary War era.

So, enjoy your summer, but before you go, mark your calendar for educational activities scheduled through the end of the year. Early Bird sessions are held the third Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In September, we will get back in the groove with discussions on online use of the Bemis catalog and using the CGHS website followed by a discussion of old-fashioned letter writing for **when Google just doesn't produce that missing piece of evidence**. In October, we will host another roundtable of seven states: CT, IA, IN, KS, MD, MO, and SD. Thirteen states still remain based on the survey results from last fall. We will be recruiting table hosts, so let us know now if you would like to volunteer as table host. In November, a guest speaker will share tips and tricks for using Photoshop Elements in genealogical applications. Talk to either Barb or me about what you would like to see demonstrated in this session.

TECH TIP



Question: I've gotten lots of photos from Find-a-Grave and have hundreds I could share. The problem is the size of the photo. My camera generally produces 2M pictures and Find-A-Grave won't accept that large of a picture. The thought of opening every saved picture to reduce the resolution seems discouraging.

Answer: I love Find-a-Grave. I sent a grave request for a gg grandmother and someone just posted the image for me! It's wonderful! Here are some links to how to batch resize your photos. The following link will show you how to resize a batch of photos with several different software programs. One of the explanations is for using Picasa photo software, which you can download free.

http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/batchresizecrop/Batch_Resizing_Cropping_Tools_Tips.htm

Query Corner

The Query Committee will research Colorado records at local sources in the Denver Area. There is a minimum donation to the Columbine Book Fund of \$20.00 per surname. Send request along with a S.A.S.E. and a check payable to "CGHS, Inc." to:

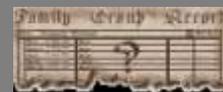
CGHS Query Coordinator
Woody Trosper
P. O. Box 2074
Littleton, CO 80161-2074

CGHS Spring Lunch and Book Sale May 18, 2010



Attendees and Speakers at the 2010 Luncheon included: Top (L to R): Paula Davis, Diane Hall, Charlene Roberts, CJ Backus, Center Row: Doris Livingston, Gordon Johnson, Julie Haynie, Margaret Weiland; Bottom Row: Nedra Fortune, Woody Trosper, Ginger VanZyl, Marilyn Lyle.

Research News and Tips



Fascinating Genealogy Programs on BYUTV

By Barb Walker

Someone at one of the February meetings mentioned genealogy programs on BYU TV. I checked it out and have been watching two in particular: *Ancestors* and *The Genealogy Project*. Both are extremely interesting to genealogists, especially beginners! Here's how you can watch them if you have cable or satellite, or on your own computer.

BYUTV in Colorado

- Comcast Cable (channel 232)
- Dish Network (channel 9403) BYUTV is part of the basic Dish Network package or the DishFAMILY package
- DirecTV (channel 374)
- From your computer: You can watch BYU Television using Movie Networks and Windows Media Player via the Internet at <http://www.byutv.org/streaming>. Note: This generally requires a high-speed Internet connection for the best experience.

The Generations Project

This is a one-hour program that helps an individual researcher discover their roots or solve a family mystery. BYUTV assists the researcher in finding resources and possible relatives who may have information on the family member in question. A recent show helped a Caucasian gentleman in Utah trace his family back to India.

Another episode featured a young black female law student whose family legend suggested that a black male ancestor, a slave, owned a patent for a bridle bit. As they researched this ancestor, she learned that he had been a shoe maker as a slave, and managed to earn enough money on his own time to buy himself, and then over the next six years **to buy his wife and 12 CHILDREN! His owner recognized the man's intelligence, integrity and hard work and made these purchases possible.** The law student was seeking to learn how her ancestor had overcome his obstacles to success, as she believed she would have to overcome obstacles as a black, female attorney. It was an amazing story. You can apply to be a part of this program and check out the schedule at <http://www.byutv.org/thegenerationsproject/>.

Ancestors

This half-hour program (no commercials), explains various types of records and resources and how to use them in your research. Here is the website that describes the program. <http://www.byub.org/ancestors/>

This is a description of the series:

Ancestors returns for a second season with thirteen new episodes, a new host, and a new focus: the world of family history records. Shot on location around the world each episode weaves expert instruction with moving personal stories. *Ancestors* shows viewers how to find and use a wide variety of records for family history research. Check out the link below for the schedule and weekly topics. I think genealogists of all levels would find it interesting.

<http://www.byub.org/programaz/program.asp?id=62&showall=False>

Columbine's 2010 Symposium: a great success!

On Saturday, June 5th, our speaker, Laura G. Prescott, delivered a day full of useful information in her well prepared and fun presentation style. The Buck Recreation Center proved to be the ideal spot as it provided a very comfortable setting for a productive and enjoyable day.

Comments received reflect this success:

"Laura presented a great seminar today. I was very interested in all the topics -- not the usual stuff and the many examples got me thinking about all kinds of avenues for research -- and fun!"

"It was great. And yes, I learned something!"

"Laura was a delightful speaker."

"I had a great time. Laura is certainly an organized speaker. Got some new ideas to try this summer."

Our photographer, Livie Grogan, shows the day in her photos.



Columbine
Genealogical &
Historical Society, Inc.

Meetings
1:00 p.m.
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays
January thru May
and
September thru November

No Meetings in June, July & August
Social only in December
2nd Tuesday
South Wing, South Entrance
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
6400 S University Blvd
Littleton, CO

Annual Dues

Individual.....\$15.00
Individual and Spouse....\$20.00

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

If you are concerned as to whether a meeting will take place, you are asked to call one of the officers of the Society. They will be able to inform you of any cancellations or other changes. Call before 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday as Board Meetings begin at 9:30. Please do not call the Church office. The list of officers is on page two of every newsletter.

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