



# Colorado Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

December 2025 Volume 50 Issue 10

Nancy Dierker, Editor

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### President's Message

Dear CGS Members,

I'm writing this column on Thanksgiving Day, after enjoying a quiet and relaxing holiday meal with just my husband and me at the table. We decided to celebrate with our families at local restaurants over the weekend and keep Thanksgiving Day itself peaceful and low-key. It turned out to be the perfect choice—we ended the day in good spirits and ready to face the coming holiday season with a sense of calm.

Today, I'm especially thankful to be presiding over a society that is truly thriving. CGS is on solid financial footing, and the many volunteers who give their time and talents to support our projects are simply the best. Our support crew continues to grow as we expand our workshops and programs to meet member interests.

Membership is on the upswing, and it's been wonderful

to see so many faces at our Zoom meetings—matching names to voices and welcoming members who live far beyond Colorado but regularly join us for our events.

Next weekend is our holiday party, and during our November Lunch Bunch we had a chance to preview the Lowry Beer Garden. We all agreed it was a great choice, and I hope to meet many more of you in person on Saturday, December 6, at the Beer Garden.

Thank you all for your continued membership, involvement, and support of CGS. I look forward to seeing, talking with, and working alongside you in 2026.

*Bobbi King*

## Society Support Staff

### Communications & Publications

Nancy Dierker, Editor, CGS  
Newsletter  
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Nancy Ratay, Editor, *The Colorado  
Genealogist*  
Karin Conway, Assistant editor  
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### Education

Carol Darrow, Beginning Genealogy  
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### Society Delegates and Liaisons

Pattie Apple, NGS & CCGS delegate  
Sylvia Tracy-Doolos, DPL liaison

### Technical Support

Carol Darrow, Zoom manager  
Becky Clark, Video editing  
Gary & Denise Williams, Mailing  
Libby Dollar, Google Manager & Web  
Support  
Martha Van Driel, Web assistant  
Marilyn Alvord, Web assistant

## Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members

The Colorado Genealogical Society is delighted to welcome our new members and extend a heartfelt thank-you to those who have renewed their memberships. Your enthusiasm, curiosity, and continued support strengthen our community and help us fulfill our mission of preserving family history and strengthening genealogical education. Whether you are just beginning your research journey or have been tracing your roots for years, we are glad you are part of CGS and look forward to learning and growing together in the year ahead.

Lana Overturf  
Katherine Banning  
Ronald Royce  
Elizabeth Eddings  
Mary Thayer  
Terry Hjelmstad  
Marcia Brennan  
Katherine Plym  
Nancy Wehner

Randall Byrd  
Marcia Brennan  
Thomas Templeton  
Carly Hill  
Tony Hjemstad  
Linda Wyman  
Lynda Higley  
Susan Canham  
Susan Holllis

Our members now number more than 290! We are so delighted to know that our membership is thriving.

## No December Lunch Bunch



We know your plate is pretty full this month so In-person Lunch Bunch is taking a break.

We'll be back in January. In the meantime, we wish you a very filling holiday season.

## Celebrating Colorado's 150th Anniversary in the Quarterly

By Nancy Ratay, editor, The Colorado Genealogist

Next year is Colorado's 150th anniversary of statehood. As a state-wide genealogy society, we have attempted to collect and maintain lists and stories of Colorado pioneers. In none of these collections have we been able to include all of the pioneers. Our pioneer lists have come from submissions by descendants, records we've transcribed and indexed for the quarterly, newspaper clipping transcriptions and indexes of obituaries of pioneers and the list compiled by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies.

We would like to have pioneer stories included in our issues for the 150th Colorado statehood celebration. We are particularly focused on those who were here before statehood in 1876, but are interested in any pioneers before 1900. The story can be as long or short as the information you have on the pioneer.

Don't have a centennial pioneer but would like to contribute? You could peruse the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection particularly for obituaries of pioneers from more remote areas of the state. This was how I came across the two obituaries from Mancos, Colorado, of pioneers who were not listed in any of our databases. See the November quarterly for Hiram Barber and his wife.

The following lists are available for searching:

[Pioneer Obituary Index Arrivals Before 1900](#) (Members Only)

[Pioneers Born in Colorado before 1900](#) (Members Only)

Colorado Families: a Territorial Heritage (Open to all under the Publications tab at [cogensoc.us](http://cogensoc.us))

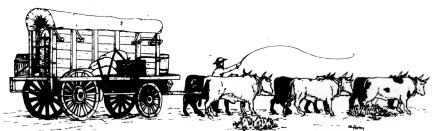
Surname Indexes to the quarterly (Open to all under the Publications tab at [cogensoc.us](http://cogensoc.us))

[Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Pioneer List](#)

[People and Pioneers of Colorado at the Denver Public Library](#)

Not all the names in the quarterly's surname indexes are pioneers, but the indexes do include the lists that are in Members Only, but spread throughout the issues, not consolidated. You would need to check the issue itself to see what the article was about to determine if the name mentioned was a pioneer.

If you find that your pioneer is not included on any of our lists, please try to send us information or a short story of that pioneer. We would like to add to our list for the celebration. Also feel free to submit longer pieces as well! Send information to me, the quarterly editor, at [quarterlyed@cogensoc.us](mailto:quarterlyed@cogensoc.us)





## Mingle, Jingle, and Genealogy

The Colorado Genealogical Society is hosting a holiday party on Saturday, December 6, at 2:00pm.

We have reserved a room at the

### Lowry Beer Garden

so dig out your Santa hat and join us for some cheer. This is a chance to hang out in person and visit with those you have been seeing virtually all year. Or, you might meet someone new who shares your passion for genealogy.

Put your jingle on and let's mingle!

[Lowry Beer Garden](#)

7577 E Academy Blvd, Denver, CO 80230

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## Supporting Genealogy Research at DPL: Your Donations at Work

Thanks to the generosity of our CGS members, the Colorado Genealogical Society has been able to purchase and donate a number of valuable genealogy books to the Special Collections and Archives at the Denver Public Library (DPL). These purchases are made possible through contributions to the Library Fund—donations made when members join or renew their CGS membership. While we don't have an exact count of the total number of titles donated over the years, the impact is clear: these books serve researchers today and will continue to support the genealogy community for generations to come.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Sylvia Tracy-Doolos, CGS Library Liaison to DPL, and Jaymie Middendorf, DPL genealogy librarian, who work together to select and prepare new additions. They ensure bookplates acknowledging CGS donations are of archival quality and that each title is thoughtfully chosen to avoid duplication and support a diverse range of research needs.

In addition to the general book fund, CGS also maintains a Memorial Book Fund. For each member who passes away, a \$25 donation is made to DPL in their honor. In recent months, we've remembered members William Schetter and Doug Wiskow in this meaningful way.

## Recent Additions to the CGS Collection at DPL:

- First Settlers: Las Cuatro Plazas de la Culebra by Maria C. Martinez
- A Genealogist's Guide to the American Colonies: Part 1 - New England Colonies by William Dollarhide
- Boulder County, Colorado Payments, Accounts, Burial Permits and Licenses, 1879-1893: An Annotated Index by Dina Carson
- Telling Her Story: A Guide to Researching and Writing About Women of the Past by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack
- Voices that Echo from the Past: A Black History of Grant County, Kentucky by Connie Taylor
- The full series of The Quarterly of the Illinois State Genealogical Society

Do you have suggestions for additions to the DPL genealogy collection? We'd love to hear from you! Email your book or publication recommendations to: [president@cogensoc.us](mailto:president@cogensoc.us)

Interested in supporting the CGS book fund? Visit the CGS website at [www.cogensoc.us](http://www.cogensoc.us), click "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner, and select the Library Fund.

To all our donors—thank you. Your contributions help keep genealogy resources accessible and thriving at DPL.

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## December Has Celebrations of All Kinds

### **Hanukkah (begins December 14)**

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of oil that burned for eight days. Families celebrate with candle lighting on the menorah, special foods, games, and gift-giving.

### **Las Posadas (December 16-24)**

Las Posadas is a traditional celebration in many Latin American communities that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for lodging before the birth of Jesus. Each night includes processions, songs, prayers, and festive gatherings.

### **Winter Solstice (Sunday, December 21, 2025)**

The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It has been observed for centuries as a turning point toward longer days and the return of light.

### **Kwanzaa (December 26-January 1)**

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration honoring African heritage, culture, and values. Each day focuses on one of the Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba), emphasizing unity, creativity, purpose, and community.

### International Human Solidarity Day (December 20)

This United Nations observance highlights the importance of unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility among people and nations. It encourages efforts to reduce inequality and promote social justice worldwide.

### National Roots Day (December 23)

National Roots Day invites people to reflect on their family origins and heritage. It's a perfect time to explore genealogy, share stories, and celebrate ancestral connections.

### Christmas Day (December 25)

Christmas Day commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is celebrated by Christians around the world. Traditions often include worship, gift-giving, festive meals, and time spent with family and loved ones.



Regardless of how or what you celebrate, may this season bring warmth, reflection, and time to cherish family, traditions, and heritage.

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## NEW Ancestry User Group

Are you an [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) user? Whether you are a new user or have been in Ancestry for years, you can now gather once a month to chat with other users, share tips, or ask your questions about Ancestry. Join the group on Saturday afternoon, December 13 at 2:00pm and typically the second Saturday of every month. Kimberly Weed has volunteered to lead this group. Register to attend on the [CGS website](#) on the Events page.

December meeting plan for the day:

- The different pay tiers and what's included in each one. There are features that are free!
- Taking an in-depth tour of the website.
- Live demonstration: beginning to build a tree, add/edit/delete people, change relationships, hints, and more.

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## A Christmas Memory: Jackie the Goat Takes Center Stage

Submitted by Christine Bebee Keener

Some holiday memories blur together over the years—but a few stand out with crystal clarity. For me, one unforgettable moment took place around 1954 or 1955, when I was in second or third grade. I can no longer remember whether it was Thanksgiving or Christmas, but I will never forget the scene: our whole family gathered around the dining room table—Mom, Dad, Granny, Aunt Sue and Uncle Bob Thomas, and their kids Cindy, Terry, and Debbie. My younger siblings Lynda, Alfred, and Kathy were all still little.

And then there was Jackie—the goat.



Jackie had been “gifted” to us by Mike “Mickey” Doyle, a lessor in the mining district. Lessors often doted on the local kids, and Mike, who didn’t yet have children of his own, had more or less adopted us. Sometimes his gifts were sweet; sometimes they were jokes among the miners—like the time he left a burro on our patio. The burro had to go back, but Jackie stayed. He was supposed to live outside, but I adored him and often secretly brought him inside on cold nights so he could sleep at the foot of my bed. I was never supposed to do this. Sometimes I listened. Sometimes... not so much.

One holiday dinner, the table was set beautifully with Mom’s favorite china and crystal. I was seated halfway down the table with my back to the kitchen and the children’s bedroom. The meal had just begun when I heard a noise behind me. Before I could turn around, Jackie leapt onto the table—onto the holiday table—and proceeded to trot straight down the middle of it between the china and glassware.

And then he found the butter.

Mom had carefully cut the butter into perfect individual pats and arranged them in her special blue-flowered butter dish. Jackie dug in with enthusiasm. I sat frozen in horror. I was so caught—again. But somehow, miraculously, my parents managed to get that goat off the table without a single piece of china or crystal breaking. I have absolutely no memory of the consequences that followed; I probably blocked that out. But I will never forget the shock of seeing Jackie up there or the dread of knowing my parents now understood exactly how often Jackie had been sneaking indoors.

Looking back as an adult, I wish I had asked the grown-ups what went through their minds when a goat suddenly appeared on the holiday table. How do you even process that moment? I imagine they laughed about it later, after the children were in bed.

Years later, in 2012, Aunt Sue and I talked about the incident again. She remembered it as hilarious. My sister Lynda remembered it too. “He walked the whole length of the table to get to the butter,” she told me. Even now, that detail makes me laugh.

Mike “Mickey” Doyle, the man who gave us Jackie, remains a warm memory as well. Dad must have had a special friendship with him—he even invited Lynda and me to stay with him and his wife for a week when we lived in Uravan. Mike was a big-hearted, fun-loving man, full of energy and good humor. Both Lynda and I remember him fondly.

It’s funny how a goat on the holiday table—something that absolutely shouldn’t happen—can become one of the most treasured memories of all.

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## CGS and DPL: A Partnership in Preservation and Sharing

There’s more to the Colorado Genealogical Society than meetings and membership—it’s also a key player in a long-standing, behind-the-scenes collaboration with libraries and genealogy organizations across the United States and beyond.

For more than 20 years, CGS has sustained two important programs that enhance genealogy collections at the Denver Public Library (DPL) Special Collections and Archives: institutional exchanges and institutional memberships. These partnerships expand access to valuable regional, national, and international resources for researchers in Colorado.

### **Publication Exchanges**

As part of our exchange program, CGS sends our quarterly journal, *The Colorado Genealogist*, to other genealogy societies and historical organizations. In return, we receive their publications, which are then passed along to DPL. This reciprocal program is completely cost-free to all parties and greatly enriches the genealogy collections at the library. According to DPL genealogist Jaymie Middendorf, “the exchange is a wonderful program, and the library has been able to add many titles that we wouldn’t have ordinarily been able to obtain.”

Organizations we exchange with include:

- New Mexico Genealogical Society
- Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (Canada)
- Palatines to America
- East Tennessee Historical Society
- Connecticut Ancestry Society
- Minnesota Genealogical Society
- Mesquite Historical & Genealogical Society (Texas)
- And many others across the U.S. and Canada

Additionally, we send complimentary copies of *The Colorado Genealogist* to:

- Colorado State Archives, Denver
- Denver Public Library Special Collections and Archives

### **Institutional Member Subscriptions**

CGS also maintains institutional memberships with several leading genealogical libraries and repositories. These groups subscribe to receive *The Colorado Genealogist* and support our mission without accessing other member benefits. Their continued engagement ensures that our work reaches a wide genealogical audience.

Some of these esteemed institutions include:

- NSDAR Library, Washington, D.C.
- FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, UT
- Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
- New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- New York Public Library, New York, NY
- University of Colorado Library, Boulder, CO
- Dallas Public Library, Dallas, TX
- And many others across the country



Through these exchange and subscription programs, CGS contributes directly to the growth and accessibility of genealogical resources. Our quarterly journal reaches far beyond Colorado, while the publications we share with DPL help build an outstanding regional archive. It's a testament to the value of collaboration within the genealogy community—and one more way CGS supports and preserves family history research for all.

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## Family Tree Maker User Group – Special Sessions!

In October, our Family Tree Maker User Group identified several FTM features that members wanted to explore more deeply. In response, CGS reached out to Family Tree Maker—and we were delighted to host Mark Olsen, Family Tree Maker Ambassador to genealogical societies, for a special session in November. Mark's detailed explanations and live demonstrations of Maps, Task List, and Source Reports were a big hit with attendees.

If you missed out, don't worry—there's another session coming up Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Topics will include:

- Charting Companion
- Error Report
- Duplicate Individuals

This will be a fantastic chance to continue learning about FTM's powerful tools and to get your questions answered directly by an expert. Don't miss this opportunity to take your Family Tree Maker skills to the next level.

Registration is required and attendance is limited to CGS members.

Please visit the [CGS website](#) to reserve your spot.

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## AI Query of the Month: Holiday Traditions Through the Generations

The holidays are a perfect time to capture living memories and family stories. Try this AI prompt to spark meaningful conversations across generations:

### AI Query:

*“Create a list of interview questions I can use to record how holiday traditions have changed across three generations in my family.”*

Use the questions at your holiday table, a family reunion, or during a quiet one-on-one visit. You may be surprised by what you learn—and what memories you preserve for future generations.

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## DNA Series - Intro to Genetic Genealogy

If you are interested in learning how to use DNA to help you identify or confirm family relations, Anna Phillips will present **Introduction to Genetic Genealogy** on Saturday, December 13 at 3pm at the [Hoffman Heights Library](#) in Aurora. Everyone is welcome!

### See What You Might Have Missed

Members of CGS have access to [Video Links of Programs and Classes](#). These recorded programs will be available, at least for a limited time (usually around 30 days), in the Members Only section of the CGS website.

### Questions??

Do you have questions for or about the Colorado Genealogical Society? Did you know you can email us at [cgscontact@cogensoc.us](mailto:cgscontact@cogensoc.us)? That's right. We'll be happy to help you get the answers you need.

If you have questions about any of the excellent archives around the state, you can save time by contacting them directly.

### Newsletter Submissions

Have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Submissions must be received by the **20th of the month** to be considered for the next issue. While publication isn't guaranteed, all submissions will receive a response from the newsletter team.

Send submissions to: [newsletter@cogensoc.us](mailto:newsletter@cogensoc.us).

Unless otherwise noted, all Colorado Genealogical Society meetings are free and open to the public. Please remember to [register in advance](#) for all Zoom activities, as attendance is limited to 100 connections. If you're unable to attend, kindly cancel by clicking the "cancel" link in your registration email.

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## Message from the Editor

The articles in this newsletter have been written by the people in the know. The articles may have been edited by ChatGPT 5.0 to add clarity and consistency. Our feature, AI Query of the Month, is written in conjunction with ChatGPT.

If you have any feedback on this newsletter, please send an email to [newsletter@cogensoc.us](mailto:newsletter@cogensoc.us).

**Don't forget to register for events at <http://www.cogensoc.us/>**

## 90 Days of Genealogy with CGS - Mark Your Calendars

Here is the schedule of events for the next three months! To register for any of these events, go to [www.cogensoc.us](http://www.cogensoc.us). To join the In Person Lunch Bunch, email [lunchbunch@cogensoc.us](mailto:lunchbunch@cogensoc.us).

December	January 2026	February
<p>6 - 2:00pm <b>Mingle, Jingle, &amp; Genealogy Holiday Party</b></p> <p>10 - 10:00am <b>The Master Genealogist Users</b></p> <p>13 - 10:00am <b>Beginning Genealogy</b></p> <p>13 - 2:00pm <a href="http://Ancestry.com">Ancestry.com</a> User Group</p> <p>13 - 3:00pm <b>Intro to Genetic Genealogy</b> by Anna Phillips in person</p> <p>14 - 1:30pm-3:30pm <b>WriteNOW</b></p> <p>18 - 11:30am <b>Virtual Lunch Bunch</b></p>  <p>Due to the heavy holiday schedule in December the following events will not be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CGS Monthly Meeting</li> <li>• Tech on Tuesdays</li> <li>• In-Person Lunch Bunch</li> <li>• Family Tree Maker Users</li> </ul>	<p>10 - 10:00am <b>Beginning Genealogy</b></p> <p>10 - 2:00pm <a href="http://Ancestry.com">Ancestry.com</a> User Group</p> <p>11 - 1:30pm-3:30pm <b>WriteNOW</b></p> <p>12 - 7:00pm <b>Monthly Board Meeting</b></p> <p>14 - 10:00am <b>The Master Genealogist Users</b></p> <p>14 - 7:00pm <b>Family Tree Maker Users</b></p> <p>15 - 11:30am <b>Virtual Lunch Bunch</b></p> <p>17 - 9:30am-11:30am <b>CGS Monthly Meeting</b> <b>Heir to the Family Tree - Now What</b> by Nancy Dierker</p> <p>17 - 2:00pm <b>Finding Birth Parents Using DNA</b> by Libby Dollar</p> <p>22 - 11:30am <b>In-Person Lunch Bunch</b></p> <p>27 - 7:00pm <b>Tech on Tuesdays</b></p>	<p>9 - 7:00pm <b>Monthly Board Meeting</b></p> <p>11 - 10:00am <b>The Master Genealogist Users</b></p> <p>14 - 10:00am <b>Beginning Genealogy</b></p> <p>14 - 2:00pm <b>Ancestry.com User Group</b></p> <p>15 - 1:30pm-3:30pm <b>WriteNOW</b></p> <p>18 - 7:00pm <b>Family Tree Maker Users</b></p> <p>19 - 11:30am <b>Virtual Lunch Bunch</b></p> <p>21 - 9:30am-11:30am <b>CGS Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>24 - 7:00pm <b>Tech on Tuesdays</b></p> <p>26 - 11:30am <b>In-Person Lunch Bunch</b></p>