



# Colorado Genealogical Society



## Newsletter

May 2026 Volume 51 Issue 05

Nancy Dierker, Editor

### President's Message

Dear CGS Members,

I am grateful for the generosity of CGS members whose donations help support the society's goals and programs. Contributions to our three primary funds make an important difference: the **Denver Public Library Fund**, which allows us to purchase books for the Genealogy Collection in Special Collections and Archives at the Denver Public Library; the **General Fund**, which helps cover operational expenses such as speaker fees and software for our virtual programs; and the **Stern NARA Fund**, which supports the digitization of National Archives records.

I would like to recognize and thank our 2026 donors: Nancy Dierker (Library Fund), Rita Day (General Fund), Richard Foster (Library and General Funds), Carolyn Thomson (Library and General Funds), Roger Hedlund (General Fund), Barb Gardner (General Fund), and Ramsey Herschel (General Fund).

Overall, donations for this fiscal year, beginning June 2025, appear to be outpacing those from the previous year. Thank you for helping CGS continue to provide valuable services to the genealogical community.

I am also pleased to share that we have recently ordered two new books for the Denver Public Library's genealogy collection: **The Psychology of Genealogy** by Susan M. Moore and **Our Story: A Guide to Recording and Sharing Your Family Story** by Rachel Seidman. We expect to receive these books within the next couple of months and then deliver them to Jaymie Middendorf in Special Collections.

#### Board Members

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Vice President

James Kroll

Secretary

Anna Phillips

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Patrick Purcell

Past President

Sandy Ronayne

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Nancy Dierker

Libby Dollar

Kelly Glenn

Gary Ratay

Nancy Ratay

Doug Short

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Newsletter  
Kelly Glenn, Social Media  
Nancy Ratay, Editor, *The Colorado Genealogist*  
Karin Conway, Assistant editor  
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& WriteNOW!  
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Doug Short, Program Asst  
Lucia Mears, Program Asst

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Becky Griswold

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

### Technical Support

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

Thank you for supporting CGS in so many ways. I always enjoy the opportunity to connect with members, whether in person or online.

Best wishes for successful ancestor hunting,

*Bobbi King*

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## May Lunch Bunch — In Person

*Facilitated by Kelly Glenn*

El Rancherito  
195 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO  
Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

Thursday, May 21 | 11:30 a.m.



El Rancherito is one of West Denver's long-standing neighborhood restaurants, with roots dating back to 1984. Originally opened as Torres Restaurant, it was among the

first Mexican eateries in the Barnum area and later renamed El Rancherito under new family ownership. For more than three decades, the restaurant has remained family-run, serving traditional Michoacán-style Mexican food based on recipes passed down through generations. Known for its approachable prices, breakfast service, and classic dishes like smothered burritos, menudo, and posole, El Rancherito has become a local fixture, with multiple generations of Denver families returning over the years.

Please RSVP by sending an email to: [lunchbunch@cogensoc.us](mailto:lunchbunch@cogensoc.us)

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## Call From the Quarterly Editor

*By Nancy Ratay*

Help! The Colorado Genealogist quarterly is in need of articles to keep us going. The May issue of the quarterly will be late due to lack of articles at this time.

### **Can you help?**

Do you have ancestors or relatives who lived in Colorado at any time during their lives? This is the “Colorado connection” we are looking for. Long or short stories, it doesn’t matter. We publish material that has not previously been published elsewhere. There are some exceptions to this, contact the editor to discuss. Submissions and even ideas for an article can be sent to the editor, [quarterlyed@cogensoc.us](mailto:quarterlyed@cogensoc.us) .

### **Reasons you should submit:**

The Colorado Genealogist is indexed by PERSI which is the Periodical Source Index for genealogy and local history periodicals. It was created by the Allen County Public Library. We keep a surname index available online to help researchers locate articles in our publication.

The Colorado Genealogist is sent to the Family History Library, the Library of Congress, the DAR Library, NGS, New England HGS and many other state institutions and libraries. Having your article published will ensure that others may find your work, and maybe even make a connection with you!

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## Why the Month of May Matters to Genealogists

*By Doug Short*

For genealogists, the month of May offers a meaningful blend of historical significance, seasonal opportunity, and community engagement. As spring reaches full bloom across much of the United States and Europe, cemeteries—often central to family history research—become more accessible after winter’s harsh conditions. Headstones once obscured by snow or debris are visible again, allowing researchers to photograph grave markers, verify dates, and uncover clues about family connections. The improved weather also makes it an ideal time to visit ancestral towns, rural churches, and local archives that may have been difficult to access during colder months.

May is also rich in commemorative traditions that align closely with genealogical interests. Observances such as Memorial Day encourage reflection on ancestors who served in the military, prompting exploration of service records, pension files, and wartime stories preserved in family lore. In addition, May often brings genealogy conferences, workshops, and society meetings, offering opportunities to learn new research techniques, connect with others, and share discoveries.

A particularly meaningful observance for genealogists in May is Mother's Day. This holiday highlights the often under-documented maternal lines in family history. Historically, women's records were more likely to be recorded under maiden names that changed with marriage—or sometimes not recorded in detail at all. Mother's Day serves as a reminder to seek out birth records, marriage certificates, diaries, letters, and oral histories that preserve the stories of mothers and grandmothers. It also encourages us to ensure their names and stories are fully represented in our family trees.

### New Census Released

The 1926 Irish census is now available. If you dabble in Irish ancestry, this could be very helpful!

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## Sylvia Tracy-Doolos Receives Birdie Monk Holsclaw Award

Sylvia Tracy-Doolos has been honored with the **Birdie Monk Holsclaw Award** from the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of genealogy.

Sylvia is a respected leader in the genealogical community at the local, state, and national levels. She currently serves as President of the Welsh-Irish-Scottish-English Family History Society in Denver, is a past President of the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and serves as Membership Chair for the International Society for

British Genealogy and Family History. She also acts as a liaison between the Colorado Genealogical Society and the Denver Public Library.



From left: Kelly Glenn, President of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies; Sylvia Tracy Doolos, recipient of the Birdie Monk Holsclaw Award; and Jaymie Middendorf of the Denver Public Library, who nominated Sylvia.

Her commitment to service is evident in her volunteer work with both the Denver Public Library and the Carbon Valley Regional Library, where she provides one-on-one research assistance, supports genealogy programming, and helps individuals connect with their family history. Sylvia is also the owner of New Leaf Genealogy and a frequent and engaging speaker for societies and libraries.

Through her knowledge, generosity, and welcoming spirit, Sylvia has helped hundreds of people begin or deepen their genealogical journey. She is a true asset to the genealogical community.

## Family Tree Maker (FTM) Workgroup

By Doug Short

The April 15th FTM session featured two practical demonstrations from workgroup members.

Len Richter opened with a presentation on creating a Relationship Report in Family Tree Maker. Using a personal example, Len shared how he discovered a connection between his musically gifted grandson and a distant relative who was also a composer. He demonstrated two different ways to generate reports that visually map relationships between individuals in a family tree.

Doug Short followed with a hands-on demonstration of working with photos in Family Tree Maker. He showed how to:

- Crop and zoom in on an individual from a group photo
- Attach that image to a person's profile
- Link a single group photo to multiple individuals in the tree
- Scan photos or documents directly into a person's media collection using a connected scanner

The group was also informed that the CGS Board of Directors has removed the members-only requirement for participation in the FTM Workgroup—making it open to all interested attendees.



L to R: Anne "Andy" Lawrence, Robert "Bobbie" King, Doug Short, Sandy Ronayne and Sandra Johansen (4/16/2026)

On April 16, five members of the group met for lunch at the Ponti Restaurant at the Denver Art Museum.

### May 20 Meeting

The May workshop will feature guest speaker Pierre Clouthier, developer of the Charting Companion software. Pierre will demonstrate how this Family Tree Maker

add-on can be used to create a wide variety of charts and diagrams suitable for professional-quality publishing directly from your family tree.

## Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members

*Membership Chair: Sandy Ronayne*

We are pleased to welcome our new members and extend our sincere thanks to those who have recently renewed their membership with the Colorado Genealogical Society.

Your support helps sustain our programs, expand our resources, and strengthen our community of family historians. Whether you are just beginning your journey or continuing years of research, we are glad to have you with us.

We look forward to connecting with you at upcoming programs, workshops, and events—both online and in person.

### **New Members:**

Ann Vail  
Ashley Young  
Barbara A Lane  
Dalya Dektor  
Darcy Coupal  
Debra Jacobs  
Floyd Jones  
Glenn Stalgren  
Jill Fristoe  
Mary Lasher  
Rita Day  
Stephanie Cummins  
Trinidad Morales

### **Renewing Members:**

Annie Mabry  
Betty Greer  
Karen Avery  
Rigby Johnson  
Russell Frum

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## Ancestry.com User Group

*Facilitated by Kimberly Weed*

In April, we focused on the DNA tools within Ancestry, including how to use matches to strengthen and expand your family tree.

Whether you're new to Ancestry or an experienced researcher, there's always something new to learn. This informal, collaborative session offers an opportunity to explore features, ask questions, and share tips with others who are working on their family history.

Join us to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and continue building your research skills in a supportive environment.

Saturday, May 9 | 2:00-4:00 PM

For questions or suggestions, contact Kimberly at [kimberlyweed1@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyweed1@gmail.com).

## May Program Presentation: Family Reunions: Bringing Genealogy to Life

*facilitated by Roberta "Bobbi" King*

Saturday, May 16 · 9:30 - 11:30am

Summer is just around the corner—and so is family reunion season.

Join us for an interactive discussion on how family reunions can do more than bring relatives together—they can spark new discoveries and deepen your family history research. We'll explore ways to use genealogy to enrich these gatherings, from sharing stories and photos to capturing memories and uncovering new connections.

Have you made a surprising discovery at a reunion? Heard a story that changed your understanding of your family? Encountered differing memories or perspectives?

Come ready to share your experiences, exchange ideas, and gather practical tips for making the most of your next family gathering. Register for this event on the [CGS website](#).

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### What Is PERSI?

By Nancy Ratay

According to the Wiki at FamilySearch:

“The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest subject index to genealogy and local history periodical articles in the world, created by the staff of the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the ACPL’s Genealogy Center. PERSI indexes articles in periodical titles (including defunct titles) published by thousands of local, state, national and international societies and organizations. It is arranged by surname or location and also by basic subject headings.”

The fastest, easiest place to search this is the [Allen County Public Library’s \(ACPL\) Genealogy Center](#). The ACPL also has a pdf on using PERSI that you can access [HERE](#).

More details about what is and is not covered by this index are available at the [FamilySearch Wiki](#). It is a subject index rather than being a surname index for the publications. However, surnames often show up in article titles or in a subject listing. Because it includes even defunct publications, you may be able to find an article about your ancestor or relative from many, many years ago.

You can also find many “how-to” and “why” videos online. Here are some that Perplexity (AI) found that might help you understand how valuable this is as well as how to use it and where to find it. As with any YouTube videos, there may be commercials.

- [Finding Periodical Articles about Your Geographic Area of Interest](#)
- [How to Use PERSI Like a PRO! - Genealogy Gems](#)

- [PERSI on Findmypast: How to Use the Periodical Source Index](#)
  - [Welcome to the New, FREE, Periodical Source Index \(PERSI\)!](#)
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## Tour of History Colorado: Library & Archives Experience

*Hosted by James Kroll*

Join the Colorado Genealogical Society for a special behind-the-scenes tour of the History Colorado Center library and archives, led by archivist Shaun Boyd.

This exclusive opportunity offers a closer look at one of Colorado's premier historical research collections. Participants will gain insight into archival resources, preservation practices, and how these collections can support your genealogical research.

Event Details: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver

Group Size: Limited to 15 participants

Eligibility: Open to CGS members only

We will meet in the lobby of the museum.

Parking is available at:

- Cultural Center Complex Garage (65 W. 12th Avenue)
- Art Garage (1200 Lincoln Street)
- Street parking in the surrounding area

After the tour, participants are invited to continue the conversation over lunch at the café located on the main floor of the History Colorado Center. To reserve your spot, please send an email to: [jamesxavierkroll@gmail.com](mailto:jamesxavierkroll@gmail.com)

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## Introduction to Genetic Genealogy

May 2, 2026 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm In Person at Hoffman Library 1298 Peoria St, in Aurora, CO

*Facilitator and Presenter: Anna Phillips*

Questions about DNA testing, where to test and understand your DNA matches? This FREE program covers the basics of genetic genealogy, DNA testing, and how to figure out where that unknown match fits in your tree.

Learn how to cluster DNA matches using the Leeds Method, or in Ancestry and GEDMatch, and the next steps to figuring out unknown DNA matches. Learn how to find biological parents for adoption cases and mis-attributed parentage cases, and how the process is used in Doe cases and in law enforcement cold cases.

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CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF COLORADO STATEHOOD  
 and  
 135 YEARS OF THE ELITCH THEATRE

# COLORADO'S *Legendary* LADIES

MARY ELITCH LONG  
 MARGARET "MOLLY" BROWN  
 ELLEN E. "CAPTAIN JACK" JACK  
 FRANCES WISEBART JACOBS  
 MAUD NELSON  
 AUGUSTA TABOR

ELITCH GARDENS PLAYERS THEATRE Est. 1891

**SUNDAY**  
 AUGUST 23, 2026  
 1:30 PM

**HISTORIC ELITCH THEATRE**  
 38TH & TENNYSON  
 DENVER, COLORADO

**TICKETS**  
**\$20**

**COLORADO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PROUD MAJOR SPONSOR OF THIS EVENT**

★ PUBLIC TICKET SALES BEGIN IN JUNE ★

## Colorado's Legendary Ladies Take the Stage at Historic Elitch Theatre: Celebrating 150 Years of Colorado Statehood and 135 Years of the Elitch Theatre

The Colorado Genealogical Society is the major sponsor of this special theatrical event honoring Colorado's rich history and remarkable women pioneers.

This unique performance will take place on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 1:30 PM at the Historic Elitch Theatre, located at 38th and Tennyson in Denver. As part of this milestone celebration, the acclaimed Legendary Ladies performers will bring to life six extraordinary women who helped shape Colorado's history:

- **Mary Elitch Long** - Visionary cofounder of Elitch Gardens who built the Historic Elitch Theatre in 1891 and helped establish Denver as a cultural center of the West.
- **Margaret “Molly” Brown** - Philanthropist and Titanic survivor known worldwide for her resilience and spirit.
- **Ellen E. “Captain Jack” Jack** - A bold and unconventional pioneer who thrived during the mining boom in Gunnison County.
- **Frances Wisebart Jacobs** - Known as the “Mother of Charities,” whose work helped lay the foundation for organizations such as United Way and National Jewish Health.
- **Maud Nelson** - A trailblazer in early professional baseball who organized and led traveling teams across the country, including Colorado.
- **Augusta Tabor** - Remembered for her strength, perseverance, and later charitable contributions during and after Colorado’s mining era.

The Historic Elitch Theatre, originally opened in 1891 and recently restored after 31 years of closure, provides the perfect setting for this immersive journey into Colorado’s past. Notably, Grace Kelly, later Princess of Monaco, performed at Elitch Theatre in 1951 at age 21, where she received the call that launched her Hollywood career.

Tickets are \$20 each.

- Presale tickets will be offered first to Colorado Genealogical Society members – watch for future announcements for when tickets go on sale on Eventbrite
- Public ticket sales begin in June
- A sellout is expected, so early purchase is encouraged

The Colorado Genealogical Society invites members, history enthusiasts, and the public to save the date and watch for upcoming ticket announcements.

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## Tech on Tuesday: Bringing Family Photos to Life with Aura Frames

By Gary Ratay.

Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Aura digital picture frames transform your favorite photos into a living, ever-changing display. In this session, we’ll explore how these beautifully designed frames can be used to showcase and share your family history in a dynamic and meaningful way.

Learn how to upload photos wirelessly from your phone, organize and display images, and invite family members to contribute their own photos—no matter where they live. Aura frames offer a simple, subscription-free way to create a shared visual archive that can grow across generations.

We’ll also discuss practical ways genealogists can use digital frames, from displaying ancestral photos at family gatherings to creating curated collections that tell a story—perfect for sparking conversations and preserving memories.

Whether you're looking for a creative way to share your research or a thoughtful gift for family members, this session will introduce you to a tool that makes family history both visible and engaging.

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## JUST FOR FUN: UNIQUE GENEALOGICAL CELEBRATIONS IN MAY

*By Doug Short*

### **May 9 - Lost Sock Memorial Day**

A day to acknowledge those mysteriously missing socks from the laundry. For genealogists, it's a reminder that even small, "lost" details—like a missing record or an overlooked name—can hold meaning. Persistence often pays off.

### **May 16 - Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day**

This day encourages strengthening community bonds through simple acts of kindness. It reflects the collaborative nature of genealogy—sharing findings, helping others break through brick walls, and contributing to community archives.

### **May 23 - Lucky Penny Day**

A chance to appreciate small moments of good fortune—find a penny and keep it for luck. In genealogy, discoveries often come the same way: a single unexpected clue can lead to a meaningful breakthrough.

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## Active Resource Adult Fair



Friday, May 8 · 8:30am - 12:30pm

Charles Whitlock Recreation Center  
1555 Dover St, Lakewood, CO 80215, USA

Check out this free event for members of the 55+ community. Meet vendors offering information, services, and resources of interest to the senior community.

Colorado Genealogical Society will be there! Stop by and say "Hello!"

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## Mid May Special Edition of the Newsletter.

We will be sending out our Special Edition in a couple of weeks to ensure you have the information you need PRIOR to the Annual Meeting in mid June. Check your email mid-month.

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## 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)?

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.

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

The articles in this newsletter have been written by the people in the know. The articles may have been edited by ChatGPT to add clarity and consistency.

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[Calendar of Upcoming Events - next page](#)

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

To register for any of this month's 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). Future months are subject to change.

May	June	July
2 - 3:00pm Intro to Genetic Genealogy	8 - 7:00pm Monthly Board Meeting	8 - 7:00pm Monthly Board Meeting
5 - 10:00am Tour History Colorado	10 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users	10 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users
9 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy	13 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy	13 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy
9 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group	13 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group	13 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group
11 - 7:00pm Monthly Board Meeting	14 - 1:30pm-3:30pm WriteNOW	17 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users
13 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users	17 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users	18 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch
14 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch	18 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch	<p><b>Reminder: Some events are on hiatus in July and August. They will return to the event schedule in September.</b></p>
16 - 9:30am-11:30am CGS Monthly Meeting <b>Family Reunions: Bringing Genealogy to Life</b> by Roberta "Bobbi" King	20 - 9:30am-11:30am CGS Annual Meeting <b>Walking Where They Walked: The Joy of Visiting Ancestral Towns</b>	
17 - 1:30pm-3:30pm WriteNOW	23 - 7:00pm Tech on Tuesdays <b>Future Proofing Your Genealogy</b> by Mark Rabideau	
20 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users	25 - 11:30am In-Person Lunch Bunch	
21 - 11:30am In-Person Lunch Bunch		
26 - 7:00pm Tech on Tuesdays <b>Bringing Family Photos to Life with Aura Frames</b> By Gary Ratay		