



# Colorado Genealogical Society



## Newsletter

June 2026 Volume 51 Issue 06

Nancy Dierker, Editor

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### President's Message

Dear CGS Members,

The public face of our Society—the CGS website—has undergone several improvements in recent months that have enhanced both its appearance and functionality.

Behind the scenes, the processes for joining and renewing memberships have been streamlined. While PayPal can still be a bit cumbersome in certain situations, the overall payment experience is now more efficient and user-friendly.

Much of the work involved in website management is invisible to members. However, when pages load more quickly and information is easier to find, the benefits become apparent. Those improvements are the result of many hours of thoughtful planning and technical expertise.

Members may also have noticed changes within the Members Only section of the website. Recorded programs and events are no longer hosted on Vimeo and have been moved to our Google Workspace platform. This change not only reduced costs for the Society but also improved access and functionality for viewers.

The visual presentation of the website has also been refreshed. Event graphics are clean and inviting, navigation is intuitive, and the overall design creates a more polished experience for visitors and members alike.

Who deserves credit for these improvements? That would be Libby Dollar, our web manager. Libby is an IT professional whose expertise has helped CGS save money, improve functionality, and modernize our online presence.

I am especially grateful for her willingness to step in whenever technical assistance is needed. Whether helping with Google Meet, Google Workspace, or unexpected website challenges, she consistently brings knowledge, good humor, and grace to the task.

## Society Support Staff

### Communications & Publications

Nancy Dierker, Editor, CGS  
Newsletter  
Kelly Glenn, Social Media  
Nancy Ratay, Editor, *The Colorado Genealogist*  
Karin Conway, Assistant editor  
Leslie Karnauskas, Proofreader  
Lucia Mears, Facebook & Publicity  
Edna Hetchler, Constant Contact

### Education

Carol Darrow, Beginning Genealogy  
& WriteNOW!  
Bobbi King, Program Coordinator  
Doug Short, Program Asst  
Lucia Mears, Program Asst

### Membership

Sandy Ronayne, Chair  
Becky Griswold

### 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

Her contributions—both visible and behind the scenes—strengthen the work of the entire CGS team.

Thank you, Libby, for all that you do for the Society.

I wish you success in your family history research and hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs.

*Bobbi King*

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## Researcher(s) Wanted

We have recently received a donation of several beautiful photographs of members of the James Williams Browne family, residents of Denver, Colorado in the 1890s or thereabouts. My thanks to Christina Carlton of Rummaging in the Attic (Facebook) for sending these to us.

It would be nice if someone could research this Denver family, write up the story, and publish the family story into *The Colorado Genealogist* quarterly. Reportedly, there are no living descendants.

Also, some of these photographs were taken at local Denver photography studios; it would be nice to write about these bygone studios.

Anyone interested in taking on this project? If so, please contact [president@cogensoc.us](mailto:president@cogensoc.us).

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## Members Update

We are grateful to have you all as members of the Colorado Genealogical Society!

### New members:

Cheryl Morgan  
Joseph Cherubini  
Deborah Marquez  
John Savage  
Ashley Young  
James Weirick

### Renewing members:

Stephen Asay  
Sylvia Doolos  
Diane Hattler  
Mary Anne Larson  
Elona Smith

## June Lunch Bunch In-Person

Thursday, June 25, 2026 at Foot Prints  
at Fossil Trace Golf Course  
3050 Illinois St., Golden Colorado

Enjoy moments on the patio, overlooking the spectacular foothills of the Front Range and Fossil Trace Golf Course. The view and ambiance here is spectacular. One of our favorites last year. Great menu and reasonable prices.



To see the menu, [click here](#).

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## The Summer Solstice and Your Family History

The summer solstice, occurring around June 20-21 each year, marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. For thousands of years, civilizations around the world viewed the solstice as an important seasonal turning point.

Ancient peoples closely watched the movement of the sun because their survival depended upon farming, weather, and seasonal cycles. Many famous historic sites, including Stonehenge, were carefully aligned with the sunrise or sunset of the solstice, showing just how significant this event was throughout human history.

Across Europe and many other parts of the world, the summer solstice became a time for festivals, feasting, music, and community gatherings. Bonfires were lit to celebrate the power of the sun and to bring good fortune for the coming harvest season. In Scandinavian countries, Midsummer celebrations included dancing, flower crowns, and outdoor meals – traditions that still continue today. Similar customs were observed by Celtic, Slavic, and Indigenous cultures, many of which passed these traditions down through generations.

For genealogists, the summer solstice offers valuable insight into the daily lives of our ancestors. Before modern conveniences, most people organized their lives around the agricultural calendar. Planting, harvesting, marriages, and community fairs often took place according to the changing seasons. Understanding these seasonal patterns can help family historians better interpret old records, church calendars, and local traditions found in ancestral communities.

Many families may still unknowingly practice customs that originated in ancient solstice celebrations. Traditions such as gathering outdoors, decorating with flowers and greenery, or holding midsummer picnics may have roots stretching back hundreds or even thousands of

**Research Challenge:**  
*Find a Summer Tradition  
Your Ancestors May Have  
Participate In*

Look for evidence of seasonal celebrations in your family or community newspapers.

years. Genealogists researching ethnic heritage often discover that these customs connect directly to ancestral homelands in places such as Scandinavia, the British Isles, or Eastern Europe.

The summer solstice reminds us that genealogy is more than collecting names and dates – it is about understanding how our ancestors lived, celebrated, and viewed the world around them. Exploring seasonal traditions and cultural celebrations can bring family history to life and help modern generations feel more connected to the people who came before them.

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## Family Tree Maker (FTM) Workgroup Update

*Submitted by Doug Short, Family Tree Maker Workgroup Facilitator*

### May Meeting Highlights

The Family Tree Maker Workgroup welcomed special guest Pierre Clouthier, developer of the powerful Charting Companion software, at its May 20 meeting.

Pierre demonstrated how Charting Companion extends the capabilities of Family Tree Maker by creating a wide variety of highly customizable family tree charts and reports. He also showcased DNA visualization tools and analysis features that can help researchers better understand family relationships and identify potential connections within their family trees.

In addition to demonstrating the software's capabilities, Pierre shared insights into its development and provided attendees with resources for further learning, including tutorial videos and access to the Charting Companion Users Group.

The 17 members in attendance were impressed by the software's flexibility and the extensive options available for creating customized charts and visual presentations of family history data.

### Group News

The Workgroup discussed plans for the summer months and, unless members express a preference for a hiatus, meetings will continue throughout the summer. Plans are also underway for a June luncheon.

Members have been encouraged to submit topics, questions, challenges, and ideas for future meetings. The Family Tree Maker Workgroup is designed as a collaborative learning environment where participants share experiences, solve problems together, and help one another make the most of their Family Tree Maker software.

## Next Meeting

The next Family Tree Maker Workgroup meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Google Meet. Linda Wyman will demonstrate the process of merging two family trees and discuss strategies for identifying and managing duplicate individuals that often result from a merge.

New participants are always welcome.

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## Ancestry.com User Group Update

*Submitted by Kimberly Weed, Ancestry.com User Group Facilitator*

### May Meeting Highlights

At our May meeting, we explored different methods for attaching source citations to our Ancestry trees. Topics included attaching records and hints found within the Ancestry.com database, as well as documents from affiliated resources such as Newspapers.com and Fold3.

We also discussed citing records obtained from external sources, including FamilySearch and local courthouses. While source citations do not need to be perfect, they should clearly identify where information was found and provide enough detail to locate the record again in the future.



Image created by ChatGPT with the help of Doug Short, in the style of Edward Hopper.

Good citations benefit not only the original researcher but also future family historians, tree managers, and relatives who may rely on the research. They also strengthen the credibility of our family trees by documenting the evidence behind our conclusions.

### June Meeting Preview

Join us on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Mountain Time for our next Ancestry.com User Group meeting.

Over the past several meetings, we have been exploring the many features available within Ancestry.com. In June, we will continue our guided tour by examining options found in the right-side menu, including:

- Your Ancestry Profile
- Account Settings
- Family Groups
- Hiring an Expert
- Hints
- Notifications
- Chats
- Pro Tools Shortcuts
- Tools & Resources
- Services

We will also discuss several member-generated topics, including:

- Understanding subscription costs and ways to minimize expenses
- Networks
- Potential Ancestors
- Tree views and filters

With so many useful features packed into Ancestry.com, there is always something new to discover. As always, questions and discussion are encouraged.

Please remember that registration is required for each individual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## CGS Annual Meeting - June 20, at 9:30am

CGS will close out its fiscal year this month and that means it's time for the Annual Meeting. This is the meeting where officers are elected and the budget for the new fiscal year is approved. You received a Special Edition of the newsletter on May 18 that contained all the information about the candidates and the budget under consideration. We hope you can participate in this exercise. You have 2 options:

1. [Register](#) and attend the meeting virtually.
2. Complete the ballot which will be sent on June 14 and submit it.

After the Annual Meeting, the June Program will follow.

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## June Program Presentation:

### Walking Where They Walked: The Joy of Visiting Ancestral Towns

*Member Stories and Sharing facilitated by Roberta "Bobbi" King*

Annual Meeting: Reports, Voting, Business.

What happens when names on a pedigree chart become places you can stand, walk, and breathe in?

CGS members share their explorations, surprises, and the deep satisfaction of traveling to their ancestral towns.

This group discussion celebrates the delight of genealogical travel—from wandering village streets your ancestors once knew, to unexpected discoveries in local archives, churches, cemeteries, and cafés. Along the way, you'll hear real-life stories, practical tips for planning a successful heritage trip, and gentle encouragement to follow curiosity wherever it leads.

Whether your journey takes you across an ocean or just a few miles from home, visiting ancestral places adds texture, emotion, and meaning to your family history research. Register for this event on the [CGS website](#).

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## Revolutionary War Burial Index (1775–1875)

Carol Darrow found an ancestor of hers on Fold3.com in the Revolutionary War Burial Index (1775-1875). It was great information but she could not identify the source of the index.

Google had the answer.

The U.S., Revolutionary War Burial Index (1775-1875) was created and compiled by library employees and volunteers at Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library during the early 1980s. It is often referred to as the "DAR Burial Index" because it was primarily built using data from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

### Creation and Compilation Process

**Original Data Source:** The index was compiled from lists of soldier burial locations published in the DAR Annual Reports to the U.S. Senate between 1900 and 1982.

**Supplemental Information:** Compilers also utilized supplemental lists published in the DAR Magazine between 1982 and 1987 to expand the collection.

**Formatting:** The BYU team standardized the information onto cards, including full name, birth/death dates, burial place (state, county, town), cemetery name, and service facts.

**Preservation:** The original physical cards were later microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah in 1993 for wider access through repositories like FamilySearch and Ancestry.

The U.S. Revolutionary War Burial Index, 1775-1875 is primarily available online through Ancestry.com and Fold3.com.

- Ancestry.com: Hosts the database titled "U.S., Revolutionary War Burial Index, 1775-1875," which includes cards from the BYU Library/DAR.
- Fold3.com: Features a dedicated Revolutionary War Burial Index, recently expanded to over 67,000 records.
- FamilySearch.org: Has a digital catalog of the D.A.R. Revolutionary War burial index microfilm from the BYU library.
- DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS): Offers a searchable "DAR Marker and Grave location Index" that contains information on located graves of soldiers and patriots.

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## 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.

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

**TICKETS \$20**

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

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

**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.

- Public tickets are available now. Get yours through the [CGS Events page](#).
- 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.

## Tech on Tuesday: Future Proofing Your Genealogy

*Presented by Mark Rabideau*

Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00pm

Have you given any thought to what will happen to your research and family tree in the future? Maybe you have received advice from any number of people who each have their favorite solution to this perpetual problem. If you are left wondering what to do, you should [register](#) for the June Tech on Tuesday presentation.

Mark Rabideau is a seasoned professional genealogist with over three decades of hands-on experience, specializing in complex European and New World research problems. His work is characterized by a rigorous, source-driven methodology and a pioneering approach to incorporating modern technology into historical research.

## 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.

# JUST FOR FUN: Unique Genealogy Celebrations in June

By Doug Short

## Drive-In Movie Day – June 6

Drive-In Movie Day celebrates the uniquely American tradition of outdoor movie theaters, which became especially popular during the 1950s and 1960s. For genealogists, drive-in theaters can spark memories of family outings, first dates, and community gatherings that shaped family stories and traditions. Old photographs, ticket stubs, newspaper advertisements, and local memories connected to drive-ins can add colorful details to a family history narrative and help preserve everyday experiences of past generations.

## Eat Your Vegetables Day – June 17

Eat Your Vegetables Day encourages healthy eating, but it also offers genealogists a chance to explore ancestral food traditions and family recipes. Many immigrant families brought gardening practices, farming traditions, and favorite vegetable dishes from their homelands to America. Family gardens often played an important role during difficult times such as the Great Depression and World War II. Researching what ancestors grew, cooked, and preserved can provide valuable insight into their daily lives and cultural heritage.

## Chocolate Pudding Day – June 26

Chocolate Pudding Day celebrates a favorite comfort food enjoyed by generations of families. Food traditions often hold strong connections to family memories, holidays, and special gatherings. Genealogists may discover treasured handwritten pudding recipes tucked inside old cookbooks, recipe boxes, or family letters. These simple family foods can reveal cultural influences, economic conditions, and the importance of passing traditions from one generation to the next.

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## 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).

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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.

## 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.

June	July	August
<p>10 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users</p> <p>13 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy</p> <p>13 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group</p> <p>15 - 7:00pm Monthly Board Meeting</p> <p>17 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users</p> <p>18 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch</p> <p>20 - 9:30am-11:30am CGS Annual Meeting <b>Walking Where They Walked: The Joy of Visiting Ancestral Towns</b></p> <p>23 - 7:00pm Tech on Tuesdays <b>Future Proofing Your Genealogy</b> by Mark Rabideau</p> <p>25 - 11:30am In-Person Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>8 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users</p> <p>11 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy</p> <p>11 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group</p> <p>15 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users</p> <p>16 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reminder: Some events are on hiatus in July and August. They will return to the event schedule in September.</b></p>	<p>8 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy</p> <p>8 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group</p> <p>13 - 10:30am Master Genealogist Users</p> <p>13 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch</p> <p>19 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users</p> <p>22 - 3:00pm <b>Intro to Genetic Genealogy</b> by Anna Phillips at Hoffman Heights Library, Aurora.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reminder: Some events are on hiatus in July and August. They will return to the event schedule in September.</b></p>