



Colorado Genealogical Society



Newsletter

July 2026 Volume 51 Issue 07

Nancy Dierker, Editor

President's Message

Dear CGS Members,

The month of June was a social one for CGS.

At our in-person Lunch Bunch gathering on Thursday, June 25, on the shady patio of Footprints at Fossil Trace Golf Course, we presented Kelly Glenn with his certificate and gift as CGS's newest Honorary Life Member. Many seats at the patio tables were filled as we shared our congratulations with Kelly on this well-deserved recognition.

Our annual Zoom meeting on June 20 was more delightful than usual. Once we dispensed with the business portion of the meeting, we moved on to the more enjoyable aspects of gathering together: meeting fellow members and listening to their stories.

CGS board members, along with volunteers from our administrative staff, joined the meeting and spent time visiting with members online. It was especially nice to hear from some whose lovely faces and voices are not often seen or heard by the membership as a whole. It became the virtual equivalent of "putting a face to a name." I enjoyed the exchanges as board members and members alike had the opportunity to meet one another and share conversations.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting was announcing our Volunteers of the Year and Honorary Life Members — two of each. A separate article in this newsletter shares more about these honorees. It is truly an honor to recognize four outstanding volunteers whose service helps keep CGS strong, active, and relevant, and a privilege to work alongside them.

The program featured five members who shared experiences traveling both near and far to walk in their ancestors' footsteps. We all understand the desire to stand in the places our ancestors once saw and experienced. Each story was unique and equally interesting, and I thank those members who took the time to prepare and share their journeys with us.

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
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Education

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

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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

Virtual meetings are only the next-best thing to being together; the best thing is actually gathering in person. To that end, several of us met on Sunday afternoon, June 28, under the breezy tents of the Lowry Beer Garden, where I presented the two Volunteers of the Year with their certificates, letters of appreciation, and gifts. We enjoyed a congenial afternoon as young and old gathered together in pleasant surroundings and warm companionship.

Still to be personally honored is James Kroll, our second Honorary Life Member. We look forward to doing so at the earliest opportunity – another welcome chance to express our appreciation for an outstanding volunteer.

I wish you successful research this summer and safe travels.

Bobbi King

Election Results

At the June 20, 2026 Annual Meeting, CGS members elected the following officers and committee chair for the coming term: Roberta “Bobbi” King, President; Anna Phillips, Secretary; and Kelly Glenn, Nominations Committee Chair. Members also approved the CGS budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Members Update

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

New members:

Linda Huerta
Tiffany Moss
Candace Thatcher

Renewing members:

Helen Ferguson
Susan Hicks
Gaye Buzbee Jacobs
Pat Jakel
Robert Leavitt

July Lunch Bunch In-Person

July 23, 2026 at 11:30 am

FAMILLE Restaurant

This was a group favorite last year!!

The restaurant is located at the

Origin Hotel Westminster

8875 Westminster Blvd

Westminster, CO 80031

Free parking is available one block south of the hotel.

RSVP: lunchbunch@cogensoc.us

Menu: [Click here](#)



Recognizing Significant Service to CGS

The Colorado Genealogical Society has long depended upon the dedication, vision, and generosity of volunteers who give their time and talents in service to our mission. While many contributions happen quietly behind the scenes, their impact shapes the strength of our organization, the quality of our programs, and the sense of community that defines CGS. At the June 20, 2026 meeting, the society recognized several individuals whose exceptional service, leadership, and commitment have left a lasting mark on both CGS and the broader genealogical community.

Volunteers of the Year



CGS honored **Libby Dollar** with the **Volunteer of the Year Award** in recognition of her outstanding service, technical expertise, and generous spirit. As a member of a younger generation of genealogists, Libby has brought fresh energy and perspective to the society while working thoughtfully and collaboratively with longtime members and volunteers. Her patience, warmth, and ability to explain technology in approachable ways have helped many members gain confidence with new digital tools and modern workflows.

Libby's contributions have strengthened CGS in both visible and behind-the-scenes ways. She has played a key role in managing and improving the society's Google Workspace environment, enhancing website stability and membership functions, and helping modernize organizational processes. Most visibly, her redesign of the CGS website transformed it into a polished, welcoming, and user-friendly presence that reflects the professionalism and quality of the society itself. Through her humility, skill, and genuine dedication to the mission of CGS, Libby has made a lasting and deeply appreciated impact on the organization.



CGS honored **Lucia Mears** with the **Volunteer of the Year Award** in recognition of her exceptional service as Publicity Chair and social media coordinator. Lucia has been a tireless advocate for promoting the society's mission, programs, and resources, consistently seeking new ways to connect with individuals and communities who may never have discovered CGS otherwise. Through community outreach, partnerships, conversations, and online engagement, she has helped introduce many newcomers to genealogy and family history research while expanding awareness of the society throughout the broader community.

Lucia's impact has been especially evident in her thoughtful management of the CGS Facebook page. With both creativity and a strong understanding of member interests, she refreshed the page's appearance and broadened the variety and consistency of its content, creating a more welcoming and interactive online presence. Since the redesign, engagement has increased significantly, with more participation, comments, and meaningful interaction among members. What was once primarily an announcement page has evolved into a lively community space that reflects the warmth and spirit of CGS itself. Through her dedication, talent, and enthusiasm, Lucia has made a lasting and deeply appreciated contribution to the Society.

Honorary Life Member

CGS honored **S. Kelly Glenn** as an **Honorary Life Member** in recognition of his many years of leadership, service, and dedication to both the Colorado Genealogical Society and the broader Colorado genealogy community. Kelly has served in numerous leadership roles, including as president of multiple genealogy organizations and as a longtime leader within CGS and the Computer Interest Group. His work has consistently reflected a commitment to collaboration, education, and strengthening genealogical organizations through thoughtful leadership and community engagement.

Kelly's organizational talents have had a lasting impact on CGS programming and outreach. Through seminars, conferences, discussion forums, and special events, he has helped genealogists at every level connect, learn, and share ideas. His leadership of the CGS 100th Anniversary Celebration brought together past and present society leaders in a meaningful

tribute to the organization's history and future. Equally important has been his commitment to the personal connections that sustain the genealogy community, including organizing regular in-person gatherings that foster friendships and collaboration among local researchers. Through his vision, leadership, and generosity of spirit, Kelly has helped shape the growth and vitality of CGS for many years.

CGS honored **James Kroll** as an **Honorary Life Member** in recognition of his many years of dedicated service and steadfast support of the society's mission. Jim served as CGS president from 1984-1987 during a period of significant growth and innovation, particularly through the expanding influence of the Computer Interest Group. His leadership encouraged the development of programs and publications that brought national recognition to both CGS and CIG, while strengthening the relationship between the society and emerging genealogical technology.

Throughout his career with the genealogy department at the Denver Public Library, Jim worked tirelessly behind the scenes to build and sustain the long-standing partnership between CGS and the library, ensuring that generations of researchers benefited from expanded access to resources, records, and expertise. His contributions have continued in recent years through the organization of research tours that introduce members to valuable Colorado repositories and historical resources. As keynote speaker for the CGS 100th Anniversary Celebration, Jim shared memories and stories that reflected both his deep knowledge of the society's history and his genuine affection for its members. Through decades of quiet leadership, integrity, and service, Jim has left a lasting legacy that continues to benefit CGS and the genealogical community.

Together, these honorees reflect the many ways volunteer service strengthens CGS — through leadership, education, outreach, technology, mentorship, collaboration, and simple acts of steady dedication over time. Their efforts have enriched our society, expanded our reach, strengthened our partnerships, and helped ensure that CGS remains a vibrant and welcoming community for future generations of genealogists. We offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their remarkable service and enduring contributions.

Celebrating Another Great Year with CGS



On June 28, members of the Society gathered at the Lowry Beer Garden to celebrate another great year for the organization. It was great to get together and share memories, the genealogical equivalent of “fish tales” and some refreshing beverages. Thanks to all who participated in the event.



MacFamily Tree User Group Interest Meeting - July 16, at 7:00pm

Hosted by Bobbi King & Chip Morris

CGS is exploring interest in forming a regular online user group for researchers using MacFamilyTree genealogy software. An introductory organizational meeting will be held Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Mountain Time via Zoom. This informal session will provide an opportunity for MacFamilyTree users to meet one another, discuss topics of interest, share research and software questions, and help determine the direction and format of a possible ongoing group. Whether you are a longtime user or just beginning to explore the software, all interested participants are welcome.

Why July 2026 Is a Great Month for Genealogists

By Doug Short

July 2026 offers genealogists a perfect blend of history, family connections, and research opportunities. As Americans continue to reflect on the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations, many family historians are taking a closer look at the lives of ancestors who witnessed and contributed to the events that shaped the country. The month provides a natural opportunity to explore family stories within the broader context of American history and to preserve those stories for future generations.

Summer gatherings make July one of the best times of the year for family history research. Reunions, holiday celebrations, and vacations bring relatives together, creating opportunities to share photographs, identify unknown individuals in old pictures, and record family memories. These conversations often reveal valuable clues that can lead to new discoveries and help fill gaps in a family tree.

July's longer days and relaxed pace also encourage genealogists to devote time to projects that may have been postponed during busier seasons. Whether organizing research files, visiting local archives, exploring online databases, or planning heritage trips, many researchers find that summer provides the flexibility needed to make meaningful progress. The season's travel opportunities can also make it easier to visit ancestral hometowns, cemeteries, and historical societies.

Most importantly, July reminds us that genealogy is about more than names and dates. It is about understanding the lives, experiences, and traditions that connect generations. As families gather and create new memories this summer, genealogists have a unique chance to preserve the stories of today while continuing to uncover the stories of the past. July 2026 is an ideal time to celebrate those connections and strengthen the legacy that will be passed on to future generations.

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 THEATRE Est. 1891
ELITCH GARDENS PLAYERS

SUNDAY
AUGUST 23, 2026
1:30 PM

HISTORIC ELITCH THEATRE
38TH & TENNYSON
DENVER, COLORADO

COLORADO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

PROUD MAJOR SPONSOR
OF THIS EVENT

TICKETS
\$20

★ 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.

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?

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

JUST FOR FUN: Unique Genealogical Celebrations in July

By Doug Short

I Forgot Day - July 2

I Forgot Day is a lighthearted reminder that everyone forgets things from time to time. It's also a great opportunity to revisit old family stories, photographs, and records that may have been overlooked. Genealogy helps recover forgotten names, memories, and connections, ensuring that the people and stories of the past are not lost to time.

World Listening Day - July 18

World Listening Day encourages people to pay attention to the sounds and stories around them. For genealogists, listening is an essential skill when recording oral histories and preserving family memories shared by relatives. Taking time to listen carefully can uncover details about ancestors and family traditions that may not be found in written records.

International Self-Care Day - July 24

International Self-Care Day promotes activities that support personal well-being and balance. Genealogy can be a meaningful form of self-care by providing a sense of identity, belonging, and connection to previous generations. Exploring family history often brings comfort and perspective while helping individuals better understand their place in a larger family story.

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.

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. To join the In Person Lunch Bunch, email lunchbunch@cogensoc.us. Future months are subject to change.

July	August	September
<i>US Independence 250</i> 8 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users 11 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 11 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 15 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users 16 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch 23 - 11:30am Lunch Bunch In-Person at Famille Restaurant, Westminster Reminder: Some events are on hiatus in July and August. They will return to the event schedule in September.	<i>Colorado Statehood 150</i> 8 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 8 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 13 - 10:30am Master Genealogist Users 13 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch 19 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users 20 - 11:30am Lunch Bunch In-Person - TBD 22 - 3:00pm Intro to Genetic Genealogy by Anna Phillips at Hoffman Heights Library, Aurora. Reminder: Some events are on hiatus in July and August. They will return to the event schedule in September.	9 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users 12 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 12 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 14 - 6:00pm CGS Board Meeting <i>Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month begins</i> 16 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users 17 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch 19 - 10:00am Colorado State Archives Workshop by Dina Carson (3 hours) 22 - 7:00pm Preserving Family Photos - Keeping Images Safe by Roger Dudley 24 - 11:30am Lunch Bunch In-Person - TBD <i>27 - Ancestor Appreciation Day</i>