



Colorado Genealogical Society



Newsletter

October 2026 Volume 51 Issue 10

Nancy Dierker, Editor

President's Message

Dear CGS Members,

I want to express my deep gratitude to two members of the board of directors who have recently stepped down from their longtime roles after many years of dedicated, tireless service to our society.

Sandy Ronayne has served in many roles within CGS, including as president, seminar chair for several highly successful events, and, most memorably, membership chair.

When she chaired a seminar, she stepped up as announcer of the door-prize winners at the appointed intermission hour. Her snappy quips and one-line zingers, directed at some of her favorite members, far outplayed the objects of the door prizes themselves. She knew everyone, so no one was spared her sharp-witted remarks. For an hour, laughter lifted the gravity of our serious genealogical pursuits.

Sandy also helped resolve troublesome online issues of member engagement when the new website went live. And she has driven so many miles back and forth to the CGS mailbox at the post office that her Subaru says, "Don't bother," when she turns on the GPS.

She remains on the board as past president, where her institutional memory continues to guide us in matters of direction and action.

Gary Ratay has served on the board of directors and as CGS equipment manager since the days of the Computer Interest Group. He reminds us that he's "not a genealogist—that's my wife's talent," but as equipment manager, he has served us well.

Board Members

President

Roberta "Bobbi" King

Vice President

James Kroll

Secretary

Anna Phillips

Treasurer

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Past President

Sandy Ronayne

Directors

Carol Darrow

Nancy Dierker

Libby Dollar

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Becky Griswold

Lucia Mears

Nancy Ratay

Doug Short

Gary's technical acumen and advice have kept CGS on the forefront of presentation technologies for programs, seminars, and workshops. He has led scanning workshops since the earliest days of scanning and fielded digital photography questions, offering advice on preserving our documents and images. He continues to advise us on the advantages and challenges of AI and imaging, as he will do in an upcoming Tech on Tuesday program.

I'm sincerely grateful to all the volunteers and support staff who generously give their time and talents—both to help us trace and preserve our genealogies and to serve the society in the administrative roles that keep us up and running so smoothly.

Best wishes in your genealogy searches,

Bobbi King

Members Update

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

New Members

Brian Core
Robin Lee Fitzsimmons
John Francis
Peggy Harrison
Laura Hopps
Valerie Moriarty
Christy Peterson
JoAnna Stull
Timothy Jafek

Renewing Members

Susan Canham
Robert Gibson
Edna Hetchler
Jim Honour
James Huizenga
Cheryl Larson
Laurie Nading
Martha Runnette
LaDawn Sexton
Gary Wit

Announcing CGS New Membership Chair

I welcome Becky Griswold as our new membership chair and newest member of the board of directors.

Becky is a longtime CGS member and has served in several volunteer capacities over the past few years. She worked for many years in the banking world, and her mastery of databases and spreadsheets will serve her well in her new role as membership chair.

Thank you, Becky, for dedicating your strengths and know-how in service to CGS. I'm glad to know you both personally and as a colleague, and I know CGS is stronger for your commitment.

Bobbi King

In Memoriam

Gayla Stone

By Bobbi King

The Colorado genealogical community has lost a good friend with the passing of Gayla Stone on September 10, 2026.

Gayla served as parliamentarian for the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies and the Foothills Genealogical Society, and over the past many years she replied to my own inquiries about parliamentary procedure concerning CGS matters.

She was always gracious and patient in her instruction on parliamentary procedures, accepting questions she probably heard a hundred times over in her long career as a Certified Registered Parliamentarian.

She was a longtime member of CGS. We will add \$25 to the Memorial Book Fund in her name.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Pavilion at Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge on Friday, October 9. You may read her obituary at [Dignity Memorial](#).

Gayla is remembered with great affection and appreciation among genealogy society members.

Society Support Staff

Communications & Publications

Nancy Dierker, Editor, CGS News
Kelly Glenn, Nominations
Committee Chair
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

Becky Griswold, Chair

Society Delegates and Liaisons

Pattie Apple, NGS & CCGS delegate
Bonnie Emmert, FamilySearch
Liaison
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

Let's Do Lunch

There are 2 opportunities to have lunch with fellow genealogists each month. Everyone is welcome!

Zoom Lunch Bunch

Hosted by Carol Darrow

October 15, 2026 at 11:30 am

Register at [The Colorado Genealogical Society](https://www.coloradogenealogicalsociety.org/)

This is a virtual event so make your lunch and settle in for great discussion.



Researching genealogy with the folks at the "Luncheon of the Boating Party" at the Maison Fournaise Restaurant along the Seine River in Chatou, France. Painting by Pierre-Auguste Renoir.



In-Person Lunch Bunch

Hosted by Kelly Glenn

October 22, 2026 at 11:30 am

One of our favorites!

[Colore Italian Restaurant](https://www.coloreitalianrestaurant.com/)

2700 S. Broadway

Englewood, CO

(Parking in the back)

Would you like to suggest a lunch location? Send an email to

lunchbunch@cogensoc.us and tell us about it. We do require that the location agree to separate checks for our party. In-Person Lunch Bunch usually draws between 4-24 guests.

RSVP: lunchbunch@cogensoc.us

October Is Family History Month!

by Doug Short

October is Family History Month, which means genealogists everywhere can officially stop pretending that spending six hours looking for a 3rd-great-grandfather is “wasting time.” It is the perfect month to dust off those family photographs, open that box of mysterious documents, and begin another genealogy project that will almost certainly be much larger than you originally planned.

Family History Month encourages us to discover, preserve, and share the stories of the people who came before us. And if someone asks why you are still on the computer at midnight, simply explain that you are doing important historical research!

Of course, genealogy is not really about collecting names and dates like baseball cards. We want to know what our ancestors did with all those years between their birth and death dates. Where did they live? What did they do for a living? Who were their neighbors? Why did they move? What did they eat? What did they do for fun? And, perhaps most importantly, why did Great-Uncle Harold apparently have three different birth years? The deeper we dig, the more we discover that our ancestors had complicated, interesting lives—and occasionally enough mysteries to keep several generations of genealogists happily occupied.

Family History Month is also the perfect time to become a genealogy detective. Pick one ancestor and investigate everything you can find about that person’s life instead of immediately adding another ten names to the family tree. Search newspapers, city directories, land records, church records, maps, photographs, military files, and local histories. You may discover an ancestor who owned a business, changed occupations, moved across the country, served in the military, or appeared in the newspaper for something more exciting than attending a church picnic. Just be warned: genealogy research has a strange habit of turning one simple question into seventeen new questions—and somehow all seventeen seem important!

October is also a great month to share your discoveries before they become trapped forever in your computer. Send photographs to relatives, identify the people in old pictures, interview an older family member, organize those family papers, or write down one of the stories you have heard a hundred times but never actually recorded. Remember that someday another genealogist may be extremely grateful that you took the time to explain who Aunt Margaret was and why everyone called her “Dottie.” Preserving family history is not just about remembering the past—it is about making sure future generations don’t have to start the whole investigation from scratch.

Several of October’s celebrations make especially good genealogy excuses. German-American Day on October 6 invites us to investigate German ancestors, immigration stories, communities, and the traditions they brought to America. Leif Erikson Day on October 9 offers a chance to explore Scandinavian heritage, exploration, migration, and the remarkable history of the Norse in North America.

And then there is Count Your Buttons Day on October 21, which sounds ridiculous until you realize that genealogists will examine absolutely anything in an old photograph if it might provide a clue! Buttons, clothing styles, hats, hairstyles, jewelry, and other details can help establish dates and reveal information about an ancestor's occupation, social status, or everyday life.

So, celebrate Family History Month by digging into the past, telling the stories, preserving the evidence—and, yes, counting the buttons!

Genealogy Software User Group Reports

Ancestry.com User Group

By Kimberly Weed

Next Meeting: **October 10 from 2:00-4:00pm**

Ancestry.com User Group Meeting Recap

Last Meeting: Saturday, September 12 at 2:00pm

Our Ancestry.com User Group had a busy and information-packed meeting! We explored updates to **ThruLines** and **DNA Matches**, reviewed useful **Tree tools**, and took a closer look at ways to manage and navigate our Ancestry trees.

ThruLines Gets an Update

We started by revisiting **ThruLines**, which has received an update and is now being beta tested by a much larger group. I'm finally part of the beta group—and you may be, too!

We explored the new **All Ancestors** beta experience and how ThruLines presents potential ancestral connections in a tree format. Clicking on an ancestor opens a detailed panel with information about matches and DNA descendants, Ancestry Member Trees, photos, family information, and potential relationships and connections.

Most importantly, we discussed the need to pay attention to where the information comes from. Connections suggested by ThruLines are **potential relationships, not proven facts**.

New Beta Feature: Relationship Path

We also explored a new **Relationship Path** feature in DNA Matches. When a DNA match has a public linked tree and Ancestry identifies a common ancestor, this beta feature can show the path connecting you to that match through your family tree.

As with other beta features, users are encouraged to leave feedback to help Ancestry improve the feature.

Cleaning Up Timeline Events

We revisited a question from last month about cleaning up duplicate events on an ancestor's Profile Page.

If an ancestor has two entries for the same event—such as a marriage or immigration—we can compare the sources to determine which event is better documented. Keep the stronger event, attach any useful sources from the duplicate to it, and then delete the duplicate event. This keeps an ancestor's timeline cleaner without losing valuable documentation.

Exploring Tree Tools

We also spent time exploring the many tools available through Ancestry's Trees menu. We looked at managing trees we own and those shared with us, uploading a GEDCOM, inviting family members, managing access, adjusting privacy settings, exporting a tree, and more.

Within individual trees, we explored different viewing options and features such as **Tree Mapper**, **Find in Tree**, **Hints**, **DNA Matches**, **Tree Overview**, **Activity**, **prioritized people**, and **Tree Checker**. A word of caution: Ancestry also provides an option to delete a tree—and **deleting a tree cannot be undone!**

We revisited **Tree Checker**, a ProTools feature that can identify potential problems such as duplicate people, unusual dates, or missing documentation.

Tree Mapper provides another way to explore the people and events in a tree by location. Filters allow researchers to narrow the results by name, location, date, events, DNA, family line, possible errors, hints, Tree Tags, networks, and other criteria.

StoryScout and Ancestry AI

Finally, we explored **StoryScout** and discussed how Ancestry can use information from member trees to generate an AI-created story. Because that information may come from trees other than your own, remember to check the underlying records and sources before accepting an AI-generated story as fact.

Lots of Tools—But Evidence Still Matters

Ancestry continues to add and change features, particularly in the DNA and AI areas. These tools can help us discover information, identify possible connections, and navigate our trees more efficiently. But whether the suggestion comes from ThruLines, a hint, another member's tree, or AI, **we still need to evaluate the evidence behind it.**

And don't forget: when you see a beta feature, leave feedback! Your feedback helps shape how these tools develop.

Join us for our next Ancestry.com User Group meeting on **October 10 from 2:00-4:00pm**. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Family Tree Maker (FTM) User Group

By Doug Short

Next Meeting: **Wednesday October 21 at 7:00pm**

September Meeting Presentation and Highlights

Anne “Andy” Lawrence provided a presentation of her family reunion that occurred in early August in Idaho. She described what worked, what did not work and how the family tree charts she produced in FTM were received by her relatives. She augmented her presentation with pictures and stories about her relatives.

Sandy Ronayne presented a demonstration on how to incorporate data, a tree or a GEDCOM file from a family member into your own FTM software.

News and Next Meeting

The October workshop (via Google Meet) will resume discussing the subjects that the members have requested, such as working with Maps, creating a story book, pare off a branch of the main family tree, how to use photo darkroom, to name a few. We will also be discussing new subjects to explore based on the needs and wants of the workshop members.

MacFamily Tree User Group

Hosted by Chip Morris

Last Meeting: Thursday, September 17 at 7:00pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15 at 7:00pm

Last month, we discussed creating multiple family trees and why you might want to do so. We also talked about charts and the flexibility MFT gives its users. From colors to font size, background pictures, and style, there are many different ways to present your information to family and friends, those deeply interested in genealogy and those who don't quite get why we do what we do.

This month, we'll talk about turning research into keepsakes: publishing books, charts, and stories in MFT. We'll discuss how to create Custom Family History Books with stories, photos, and citations. You can take this as deep as you want. We'll also cover creating display-worthy charts and high-resolution posters for framing. Finally, we'll talk about ways to present this information to get more of your family interested in all of your hard work.

Reminder: You don't need to be a Mac user to attend—everyone is welcome!

Genealogical Humor Corner

By Doug Short

My family tree has so many branches, I stopped looking for relatives and started looking for shade.

Genealogy: where 'just one more record' turns into three hours.

I found a family secret in the records. Unfortunately, it came with a subscription fee.

I don't have a brick wall. I have a permanent architectural feature in my family tree.

Record of the Month: Certificate of Death

One Record, Many Sources

By Nancy Dierker

A death certificate may look like a single record, but genealogists should not treat every fact on it equally. A death certificate can essentially be broken into three information streams: the informant, medical professionals, funeral or cemetery staff.

Information	Likely source	How to evaluate it
Name of deceased	Informant/family, sometimes institution	Usually strong, but spelling and aliases can vary
Date & place of death	Physician, hospital, institution/official	Generally strong; recorded close to the event
Cause of death	Certifying physician/medical examiner	Strong primary information about the death, subject to medical knowledge of the period
Residence	Informant	Usually reliable, but distinguish residence from place of death
Date of birth/age	Informant	Depends heavily on informant's knowledge
Birthplace	Informant	More vulnerable to error, particularly for older or immigrant decedents
Parents' names	Informant	Reliability varies greatly
Parents' birthplaces	Informant	Often less reliable than the parents' names themselves
Marital status/spouse	Informant	Usually useful, but previous marriages may be omitted
Occupation	Informant	Useful, but may simplify a lifetime of occupations
Burial place/date	Funeral director/cemetery	Generally strong for disposition information
Informant's name/address	Informant/funeral director	Valuable evidence in its own right—it may identify a relative or associate

Ask who supplied each piece of information—and whether that person was in a position to know the answer.

The physician who attended the deceased may have firsthand knowledge of the date and cause of death but know nothing about the deceased's parents. The funeral director may be an excellent source for burial information but usually obtained personal details from someone else. The informant may know the deceased's spouse and residence intimately while knowing only family stories about a parent's birthplace.

Pay particular attention to the **informant**. A spouse reporting the deceased's birth date may have known it for decades. An adult child reporting a grandparent's birthplace may be repeating information heard secondhand. A hospital employee or neighbor may know very little about the deceased's early life.

The Genealogist's Question

Don't simply ask, “What does the death certificate say?”

Ask instead:

“Who said it, how could they have known it, and what other evidence can I use to confirm it?”

A death certificate is not one piece of evidence. It is a collection of information from different sources, each deserving its own evaluation.

AI Query of the Month:

Ask AI: Who Knew What?

By ChatGPT with oversight by Nancy Dierker

A death certificate contains information supplied by several people, and not all of them had firsthand knowledge of every fact recorded. AI can help you slow down and evaluate each piece of information separately. Upload an image or transcription of a death certificate and try this prompt:

“Act as a genealogy research assistant. Analyze this death certificate one field at a time. For each genealogically significant fact, identify the likely source of the information, whether that person probably had firsthand or secondhand knowledge, and any reason the information might be inaccurate. Do not assume that information is correct simply because it appears on the certificate. Create a table showing: fact stated, likely informant or source, type of knowledge, reliability considerations, and records I could seek to verify the information. Clearly distinguish what the document actually states from any conclusions or suggestions you make.”

Take It One Step Further

After reviewing the analysis, ask:

“Which three facts on this death certificate most need independent verification, and what records would provide the strongest evidence for each?”

Remember: AI can help you **analyze** evidence, but it cannot determine whether a fact is true without supporting records. Use its suggestions to develop your next research questions—not as substitutes for the evidence.

Curious About AI? Learn Along With Us!

CGS is seeking a volunteer presenter for a new Tech on Tuesdays AI series.

Are you intrigued by artificial intelligence and curious about how it can be used in genealogy? You don't need to be an AI expert. You just need an interest in learning—and a willingness to share what you learn with other CGS members.

Tech on Tuesdays (TOTs) is CGS's series of special-interest programs focused on technology and genealogy. Programs are presented on Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of the month, with approximately eight programs offered during the year.

During the 2026-2027 program year, we plan to offer approximately four TOTs programs devoted to artificial intelligence, and we're looking for a volunteer to present them.

Here's the good news: you won't be starting from scratch.

The National Genealogical Society is making AI program content, scripts, and presentation resources available for local societies to use. Much of the difficult work of developing a presentation has already been done. Our presenter will have an opportunity to learn about this rapidly changing technology while helping fellow genealogists learn alongside them.

If you've been wanting a reason to explore AI more deeply, this could be it.

Interested—or simply want to know more? Contact Bobbi King at president@cogensoc.us for details.

Upcoming Genealogy Activities

Women Owning Property: A Historical Perspective

presented by Carol Darrow

Saturday, October 17, 10:00-11:30am

Could your female ancestor own the family home? Inherit land? Sign a deed? Take out a mortgage? The answer may depend on when and where she lived.

For centuries, women's rights to own and control property were limited by laws that reflected their marital status. In the United States, those restrictions gradually changed as states enacted Married Women's Property Acts beginning in the mid-19th century. By 1900, married women throughout much of the country had gained significant rights to own and control property in their own names.

Financial independence took much longer. As recently as the 20th century, women could still encounter significant barriers when applying for mortgages and other forms of credit. Federal protections against credit discrimination did not arrive until passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1974.

Understanding this changing legal landscape can help genealogists better interpret the records our female ancestors left behind—and recognize records we might otherwise overlook.

About the Speaker

Carol Darrow has been a professional genealogist for 25 years, specializing in U.S. research. She teaches free Beginning Genealogy classes on Zoom and facilitates the WriteNOW writing group, also on Zoom.

A Wealth of Websites: Deciphering German Handwriting

Presented by Katherine Schober

Tech on Tuesday, October 27 · 7:00 - 9:00pm

You've found the German record you've been searching for. There's just one problem—you can't read it.

Old German handwriting can turn an exciting genealogical discovery into a page of seemingly indecipherable lines and loops. Fortunately, you don't have to tackle it alone.

Join German-English genealogy translator Katherine Schober as she introduces online tools and resources that can make deciphering German handwriting easier—and even fun. Discover websites offering fill-in-the-blank assistance, surname and town verification, and other resources that can help you move from “*What does that say?*” to understanding the records that tell your ancestors’ stories.

Whether you’re working with vital records, family letters, diaries, or other German-language documents, you’ll leave with practical resources to add to your genealogy toolkit.

About the Speaker

Katherine Schober is a professional German-English genealogy translator and educator with more than a decade of translation experience. She earned her master’s degree in German through Bowling Green State University and the University of Salzburg and spent three additional years in Austria teaching English and translating German, with a focus on history.

Now based in the United States, Katherine specializes in helping genealogists decipher historical German handwriting and uncover the stories contained in family letters, diaries, records, and other documents.

Around Colorado Genealogy: CCGS October Events

By Bobbi King

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS) brings together genealogical and family history organizations from across the state, including CGS. October offers several opportunities to connect with Colorado’s broader genealogy community—from meeting fellow researchers and learning about local organizations to recognizing those who have made lasting contributions to genealogy in our state.

Genealogy Fair — October 3

The Genealogy Fair at the Denver Public Library Central Library will be held on the 7th floor on **Saturday, October 3, from noon to 4:00 PM.**

Visit the participating organizations at their tables and learn more about the many genealogy resources available in Colorado. Then stay and do some research, meet your friends, or gather with a study group.

Participating organizations include:

- Foothills Genealogical Society
- Black Genealogy Search Group
- Castle Rock Colorado Genealogical Society
- Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado (JGSCO)
- Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists
- WISE Family History Society

- Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies
- Colorado Genealogical Society
- Swedish Genealogical Society of Colorado
- Longmont Genealogical Society
- FamilySearch – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- National Danish-American Genealogical Society
- Adams County Genealogical Society
- Palatines to America

CCGS Awards Nominations – October 1-December 1

Nominations for the **David S. Vogels Award** and the **Birdie Monk Holsclaw Memorial Award** will be accepted from **October 1 through December 1**. All nominations must be postmarked by December 1.

The **David S. Vogels Award** recognizes individuals who have been **deceased for at least two years** and who made significant contributions to genealogy in Colorado.

The **Birdie Monk Holsclaw Memorial Award** recognizes **living individuals** who have made significant contributions to genealogy in Colorado.

Please review the award qualifications and nomination instructions and consider recognizing someone deserving of these honors at [David Vogels Award](#) and [Birdie Award](#).

CCGS Delegates Meeting – October 10

The final CCGS Delegates Meeting of the year will be held on Zoom on **Saturday, October 10, at 10:00 AM**. This annual business meeting will include the **election of officers, approval of the budget, and voting on several other matters**. Pattie Apple is the CGS Delegate to the Council. Our own Kelly Glenn is the current president of the CCGS. We are well represented!

Continue Learning with OLLI at DU

By Bobbi King

Looking for another opportunity to build your genealogy skills? **Bob Larson**, on behalf of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS), is teaching genealogy classes through the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Denver**.

On **October 19**, Bob will present “**Intro to Genealogy, Part 2**” in a hybrid format, with both in-person and online participation available. The class will explore how to access and use three popular genealogy databases, whether through a personal subscription or free access available at a local library or FamilySearch Center.

The genealogy classes are listed on pages 42-43 of the [OLLI online catalog](#).

Cost and registration: OLLI annual membership is \$65, and each genealogy class is \$15. The in-person class is limited to 28 participants, while up to 100 may attend via Zoom. If the DU classroom is full, participants may register for the online option.

OLLI has offered adult education for more than 20 years, providing opportunities to continue learning, growing, and connecting. There are no tests or grades—just a shared interest in learning in an engaging environment.

Interested in more than genealogy? OLLI offers a wide range of classes. Visit the [online catalog](#) for the complete course offerings and registration information.

Book Review

History by a Hair: Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings & Solving a 200-Year-Old Mystery By Richard Kurin

Reviewed by Nancy Dierker

Most in the genealogical community are familiar with the 200-year-old question: Was Thomas Jefferson the father of Sally Hemings's children?

Sally Hemings was enslaved at Jefferson's Monticello. She was 30 years younger than Jefferson and the half-sister of Jefferson's first wife. Their relationship existed within the profoundly unequal circumstances of slavery.

Last month, a new book was published that is touted as the definitive account of a multiyear research project at the Smithsonian to attempt to answer the question of Jefferson's paternity in relation to Sally Hemings's children.

It all started years ago when an effort was undertaken to restore the Jefferson Bible, a book of Jefferson's own making that compared Bible texts in multiple languages side by side. It was a true cut-and-paste job. During the restoration effort, several hairs were found that were theorized to be those of its maker.

The researchers and scientists at the Smithsonian began to wonder: Could DNA be recovered from those hairs and compared with DNA from descendants of Jefferson and Sally Hemings?

Easier said than done.

It took years of genetic research, coupled with the work of genealogists, to identify the relationships that could be proven.

If you have an interest in DNA, genetic genealogy, or American history, you may want to consider this book, written by the man who headed the project, Richard Kurin. I listened to the audiobook and was completely engrossed—not only in the science, but also in the politics and human emotion tied up in a single case of paternity that could change the discussion of this Founding Father forever.

Mesa County Genealogical Society



FALL CONFERENCE 2026

Discover Your Roots

Where Stories Come Alive

SATURDAY



October 24, 2026
8:15 AM - 2:30 PM

**Community Hospital
Monument View Medical
Plaza Conference Rooms**

2351 G Road
(West Side of Hospital)
Grand Junction, Colorado



**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

Whether you are just
beginning your journey
or a seasoned researcher,
this conference is for you!

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Melissa Guziak

Genetic Counselor, Community Hospital
Same DNA, Different Answers

What Genetic Testing Is Really Telling Us



Genetic testing is more accessible than ever—but what
do the results really mean?

Explore the evolution of genetic testing, from
ancestry kits to clinical and research-based testing.
Learn what genetic tests can—and can't—tell us, how
to interpret results, and how different tests answer
different questions.

ADMISSION & MEMBERSHIP

FREE for Mesa County Genealogical Society Members
\$10 at the Door for Non-Members



Not a member? Join today or at the conference
and enjoy free admission plus year-round
genealogy resources!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual Membership - \$20
Family Membership - \$25

REGISTER TODAY!

CONFERENCE SESSIONS INCLUDE

- You've taken the DNA Test - Now What?
- The Emotional Life of Family Trees
- AI for Genealogy: Tools You Can Use Today
- Help Me! It's in There Somewhere!

FEATURED CLOSING SPEAKER

Zebulon Miracle

CEO of Roice-Hurst Humane Society

Discovering Family History Through Maps

Discover how historical maps can help uncover where our
ancestors lived, how communities developed, and how
landscapes have changed over time.



REGISTER EARLY * SPACE IS LIMITED

Scan with your phone's camera and register on Eventbrite



Scan the QR Code to Register!

Quick, Easy, Secure
ON Eventbrite →



Don't feel comfortable scanning the QR Code? Email us at mcgsvicpres@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook
Scan the QR Code to
stay up to date!



Visit US
mesacountygenealogy.org



Email Us
president@mesacountygenealogy.org

JUST FOR FUN: Unique Genealogical Celebrations in October

By Doug Short

October 5 – National Do Something Nice Day

National Do Something Nice Day gives genealogists an excellent excuse to do something kind—and perhaps earn a little good karma before tackling that impossible ancestor who refuses to be found. Thank the cousin who finally identifies everyone in that mysterious family photograph, send a relative a copy of the family history you have been working on for years, or help another genealogist break through a brick wall. You could even do something truly extraordinary: share your best genealogy website or research trick without saying, “I discovered this three years ago, but I can’t remember where!” Small acts of kindness can help preserve family memories, strengthen connections, and keep genealogy from becoming a one-person detective agency. On October 5, do something nice for another family historian—and don’t worry, you can still keep the good records for yourself!

October 17 – International Archaeology Day

International Archaeology Day celebrates the art of digging into the past, making archaeologists and genealogists practically professional cousins. Archaeologists dig through layers of soil looking for clues, while genealogists dig through layers of census records, courthouse files, newspapers, and family papers hoping to uncover Great-Grandpa’s elusive birthplace. Both professions know the thrill of discovering something unexpected—and the sinking feeling that comes when the exciting discovery turns out to be completely unrelated to the person you were researching. Archaeology also reminds us that our ancestors were real people who lived in houses, worked at jobs, ate meals, owned possessions, and interacted with their communities. So celebrate October 17 by doing a little digging of your own; just remember that your genealogy shovel should probably be metaphorical!

October 30 – National Checklist Day

National Checklist Day might be the most dangerous holiday on the genealogy calendar because one checklist can quickly become ten—and before long you are making a checklist for your checklists. A genealogy research checklist can help you remember to search censuses, birth and death records, marriages, newspapers, probate, land, military records, church records, city directories, and other sources that might contain clues about an ancestor. It also helps prevent the dreaded declaration, “There are no records,” when what we really mean is, “I searched three websites and got tired.” Check off the sources you have actually examined, note what you found, and keep track of what still needs investigation. And when you finally complete the checklist, enjoy the accomplishment for approximately thirty seconds—because you will immediately discover another ancestor who needs a checklist!

Reminders

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.

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, we recommend you contact them directly. They will have the latest information on their catalog and how to access the information you are looking for.

Generally, Our Offerings Are FREE

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/>

Membership

There are great benefits to being a member of the Colorado Genealogical Society. If you know someone who would love to get this newsletter or access to our quarterly journal, *The Colorado Genealogist*, please encourage them to join CGS! They can sign up on the [CGS website](#) for as little as \$25 a year.

With the exception of the AI Query of the Month, 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.

October	November	December
<i>Family History Month</i> <i>Italian-American Heritage Month</i> 8 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users 10 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 10 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 11 - 1:30pm WriteNOW! 12 - 6:00pm CGS Board Meeting 15 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch 15 - 7:00pm MacFamilyTree User Group 17 - 10:00am Women Owning Property: A Historical Perspective by Carol Darrow 21 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users 22 - 11:30am Lunch Bunch In-Person - Colore Italian S. Broadway 27 - 7:00pm A Wealth of Websites: Deciphering German Handwriting by Katherine Schober	<i>Native American Heritage Month</i> 8 - 1:30pm WriteNOW! 9 - 6:00pm CGS Board Meeting 11 - Veterans Day 12 - 10:00am Master Genealogist Users 14 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 14 - 11:00 Introduction to Genetic Genealogy 14 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 18 - 7:00pm Family Tree Maker Users 19 - 11:30am Zoom Lunch Bunch 19 - 7:00pm MacFamilyTree User Group 21 - 10:00am Invalids, Imbeciles, Insane, and Incarcerated: Finding Your Institutionalized Ancestors by Kimberly Weed 26 - THANKSGIVING	12 - 10:00am Beginning Genealogy 12 - 2:00pm Ancestry.com User Group 13 - 1:30pm WriteNOW! Wishing you very happy holidays filled with joy.