



Newsletter of the *Aurora Genealogical Society*

Volume XLIII, Number 4

July-August 2024

General Meetings

No Meetings in July or August

Tuesday, 24 September 2024, 1:00 p.m. – In-Person
Tuesday, 27 October 2024, 1:00 p.m. – In-Person
Small Community Room, Aurora Central Library
14949 E. Alameda Parkway. Aurora, CO 80012

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraGenealogicalSocietyCO>

Upcoming Meetings

No program meetings in July and August.

Tuesday, 24 Sep 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.

Ancestors Prior to the Revolutionary War

In Person/Hybrid

Presented by David Fryxell, Author, Editor and Experienced Genealogist

It's easy to forget that America's colonial history spans almost 170 years before U.S. Independence, beginning with the founding of Jamestown in Virginia on May 14, 1607. If some of your ancestors came over on the *Mayflower* or subsequent colonial arrivals instead of through Ellis Island, researching their lives in colonial America has never been easier. Whether they were among the earliest colonists or came later to less-storied destinations, you can now find pre-1776 ancestors in a boatload of online resources.

Tuesday, 27 Oct 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.

Maps and Genealogy

In Person/Hybrid

Presented by Roger Dudley, Experienced Genealogist

Few of the amazing number of maps that have been produced in the world have been created for genealogists, but all can be used in genealogical research. Finding the availability of these maps will be a key component of this presentation with the emphasis on the Denver Public Library collection.

Happy Birthday



USA – 4 July - 248 years
Colorado – 1 August – 148 years

Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado

P.O. Box 31732

Aurora, CO 80041-0732

e-mail – aurgs1981@yahoo.com

<https://aurgs1981.wixsite.com/auroragenealogicalso>

Message from the President

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Gail Arnert (303) 755-1179
Membership Vice-President	Melanie Golden
Program & Publicity Vice-President	Judy Holtus
Secretary	TBD
Treasurer	Dick Kault

I was just reviewing the July-August 2023 newsletter and although a participant in most of the changes that have occurred, I didn't realize how many changes were made and how significant they were.

At this time last year, we learned we were losing our library space at Central and that no space of equal or greater size was available within the Aurora Library System. We needed to find another space or liquidate by 1 Jan 2024. We liquidated by donating a significant amount of our collection to major genealogy libraries across the country. We also made the collection available to members and patrons for donations. Leftovers, like the furniture we owned, our computer, and other office supplies are resting in Gail's garage just waiting for a miracle to happen.

APPOINTED POSITION

Historian	Jeff Adams
CCGS Delegate	Jeff Adams
Computer Tech Support	Vickie Smejkal aurgensoc@gmail.com
Genealogist	Barbara Walker BarbWalker1014@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Gail Arnert arnertgen@gmail.com
Newsletter Technical Support	Lori Holtus
Parliamentarian	Dick Kault
Website/Facebook	Vicki Smejkal

And it may be happening! Gail, Melanie, and Judy H. have been approached by Library management about a possible area for meetings and classes. A memorandum of agreement needs to be in place between us and APL. Keep your fingers crossed and think positive.

We welcome articles for publication provided:

- 1) They have a general interest to furthering our members' research, i.e., websites, articles on research facilities near and far, your research trips, etc.
- 2) They have a Colorado connection, preferably Aurora, Arapahoe, and Adams counties.
- 3) If not your original work, sources must be cited.
- 4) If a copyright is involved, you must include written permission from the owner of the copyright.

With the great programs Judy Holtus has planned and the continuing classes from our genealogists, it should be a great genealogy season for us.

E-mail articles to aurgs1981@yahoo.com or to any elected officer. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any material submitted. Publication deadlines are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 24 Sep at 1:00 p.m. See you then.

This Newsletter is distributed to libraries and genealogical societies throughout the United States. This publication is also indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801.

Gail

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Current Membership - 55

May Business Meeting Results

Thank you for electing Gail Arnert and Melanie Golden for the offices of President and Membership Vice-President. They, and the rest of the Board, enjoy serving AGS.

We now have an opening for Secretary. If you are interested, please contact Gail.

In Remembrance

On Tuesday, 20 July, please pause a moment to remember and honor those whose lives were lost and survivors of the Aurora Theater shootings in 2012. If you haven't visited the 7/20 memorial, please do.

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Upcoming Events

(For more information, go to the sponsoring Society website.)

Local Events and Heritage Festivals

19-20 July - Denver Postcard and Paper Show, Holiday Inn, Lakewood. Go to <denverpostcardshow.com> for more information and a discount offer on admission.

20-21 July - Elizabeth Celtic Festival. Go to <<https://www.elizabethcelticfest.org>> for festival information to include cost and activities.

3-4 August - 60th Annual Colorado Scottish Festival will take place at the Denver Polo Club, in Sedalia, CO. Go to <scottishgames.org> for all the details. Join in for traditional Scottish music competitions in piping and drumming, as well as Scottish dancing. Learn about your heritage while visiting our clan tents, then check out the heavy athletics and much more!

Reminder - to locate other events (world-wide)

Conference Keeper

<https://conferencekeeper.org>

To find genealogy conferences listed on the site, click on the Calendar Icon to display genealogy events in a calendar view. At the top of the page you can change the month. Click 'view more' to see all the listings for a specific date.

July Events at the Aurora History Museum
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora,
80012
303-739-6660

Summer Speaker Series: Medical Research in Aurora

Saturday, July 20th at 4:00 p.m. Menopause and Brain Health with Dr. DuBose

Sunday, July 21 at 10:00 a.m.
Military medical advances in civilian life with Dr. Bebart

Monday, July 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
Healthy Brain Aging with Dr. Bettcher

Saturday, July 27th at 10:00 a.m.
Taste of Genetics with Dr. Cole.

Saturday, July 27th at 4:00 p.m.
Long COVID with Dr. Jolley.

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FamilySearch Centers in the Area

Yale & Monaco, 2710 South Monaco Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80222;
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Laredo Bldg, 950 Laredo, Aurora, Colorado 8011, Wednesdays only from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. & 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Parker (an affiliated Library), Douglas County Library, 20105 East Mainstreet, Parker, Colorado 80138;
Mon-Thu 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Fri 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.,
Sat & Sun 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Otherwise, for worldwide locations, check out www.familysearch.org/location

Newspaper Database, Allamakee County, Iowa

--- by Valerie Beaudrault, The Weekly Genealogist
26 Jun 2024

Allamakee County, seated in Waukon, is located in the northeastern corner of Iowa. The Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library keeps a community history archive with an online newspaper collection comprising over 65,000 pages from 14 local papers. Titles include *The Allamakee Journal* (1882-2004), *The Allamakee Journal and Lansing Mirror* (1922-1989), *Lansing Mirror* (1866-1902), *North Iowa Journal* (1872-1879), and *Lansing Journal* (1879-1885). The databases are keyword searchable and can also be browsed.

<https://lansing.advantage-preservation.com>

Editor's Note: Out of curiosity I checked the following surnames: Arner(1), Arnout(10), Paul(10), and Woodruff(1000+).

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Cemetery Database, Sonora, CA

--- by Valerie Beaudrault, The Weekly Genealogist

The city of Sonora, located in central California, is the seat of Tuolumne County. The city has made a cemetery database available on its website. Because the original records no longer exist, the Old City Cemetery database was developed from a variety of sources including a headstone survey, a sexton's report, undertakers' records, county death records, and newspaper obituary files. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage and click the Old City Cemetery Report button to view the burial records.

The data fields include surname, first name, date of birth, date of death, obituary, notes, and three source fields. A key to the abbreviations in the source fields has also been provided.

<https://www.sonoraca.com/visit-sonora/sonora-california-history/cemeteries/>

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DPL is thrilled to announce the full public reopening of Denver Public Library's Central Library in Fall 2024! Join us in celebrating the completion of our major renovation and rediscover Central as a place to explore and connect. Discover our redesigned spaces. Stay tuned for more details on reopening events and activities. We're just working on the finishing touches!

To learn more and stay updated, visit denlib.org/explore-cen

First Families of Colorado Certificate

Do you have a direct ancestor who lived in Colorado at least 100 years before July 2024? Can you prove it? Then you are eligible for a *First Families of Colorado* certificate. The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies provides certificates in three categories:

- 1) First Family where the ancestor was born in, or settled in, the land area of what is now Colorado before 1861;
- 2) Territorial Family where the ancestor was born in, or settled in, a territory that is now Colorado between 28 Feb 1861 and 1 Aug 1876;
- 3) Centennial Family where the ancestor was born in or settled in Colorado at least 100 years prior to the date of the application.

The ancestor and/or family did not have to continuously live in Colorado. Applicants must be a direct descendent of an ancestor who qualifies.

Each certificate is \$20. For an application packet, to view a list of Pioneers, and for more information, go to <cocouncil.org> and select First Families of Colorado Recognition Program from the main page.

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A good quote is one that really makes you think.

Of course, we all know the best genealogists are the deep thinkers (I think).

Some Best Websites for US and Canadian Research

-- extracted from Family Tree Magazine

Editor's Note - I've excluded the BIG sites and attempted to include a \$ when money is required,

- Ellis Island Passenger Search, <heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger>
- Genealogy Trails, www.genealogytrails.com
Similar to USGenWeb, but focusing primarily on Illinois
- NYC Historical Vital Records Project <a-860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov>
- Western States Marriage Record Index, <abish.byui.edu.spedialcollections/western-srates/search.clm>
BYU Idaho has been indexing marriage from 12 western states for about 3 decades resulting in over 913,000 searchable records.
- American Battle Monuments Commission, <www.abmc.gov>
You can search the overseas burial sites and memorials for more than 200,000 Americans who died in the 2 World Wars.

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*Advice to persons
About to
Write History. . .
DON'T*

Take a Closer Look

--- submitted by AGS Genealogist Barbara Walker

My paternal great-grandfather, Albert Franz Abrahamson, immigrated from Norway as a four-year-old child in 1882. At that point his parents had five children, but when I located them on the ship's passenger list, only three children were included. I was confused until I looked back at the family group sheet and realized that two of the five children died in Norway before the family immigrated.

In addition, when I looked further back, I noticed that Albert's father, Franz, had been married previously. His first wife, Anna Marta Larsdatter, died at the age of 24. At that time, they had one child, Abraham Martin Franssen, who died at the age of 9 in 1874, seven years after the death of his mother. I then realized that Abraham's mother died two years after his birth. Knowing that birth control during that time period was nearly non-existent, it made me wonder if she died during the birth of another (unknown) child. That's something I will never know.

Sometimes I get so excited when I find matches on Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org I don't pay close attention to the information they contain. When I slow down and analyze the information, it helps me understand the family's living conditions and family situations.

Another example of this was when I looked at the birth and death dates of Franz's second wife, Bertha. She was born in Norway in 1848 and was 21 years old when she married Franz in 1869. At that point Franz's first son, Abraham, was still living. He died four years later in 1874, the same year the oldest child of Franz and his second wife Bertha died. It makes me wonder if there was an illness during that time that killed many people in their village.

And finally, I realized that Bertha, Franz's second wife, died in September 1892, 10 months after the birth of her 11th child, leaving at least seven of their 11 children without a mother. Franz did not remarry, and I wonder who helped him raise those children.

Genealogy is a history of our ancestors, and we need to slow down and really understand their lives and what they endured.

James Kenith Jeffrey

James Kenith Jeffrey died May 19 surrounded by his family in Denver, CO. He was 68 years old. The cause of death was heart failure.

James was born in Huntington West Virginia on March 26, 1956. His parents were Leva Nellie Johnson Jeffrey and Rev. Newman Neal Jeffrey Sr.

He graduated from Barboursville High School and Marshall University with a bachelor of arts degree. He attended the University of Denver where he met his wife Karin Marie Martin. They married June 9, 1984.

James was a Special Collections Librarian and Genealogist at the Denver Public Library for 35 years. In this role he touched many lives with his passion for helping people research and connect with their ancestors. James was a beloved member of the genealogical community and an active member of many family history societies.

James was proud of his garden, and loved cooking for his family and friends. His faith and spiritual journey were important throughout his life. He is deeply missed.

He is survived by his wife, of 40 years, Karin; his sons Ian Jeffrey and Anders Jeffrey and Anders' partner Cora Crisman. His surviving siblings are Judy Warfield, Jerry Jeffrey, and John Jeffrey. James is also survived by his beloved dog Lyra.

James wished for his body to be donated to help train healthcare professionals in life saving skills. His family will hold a private remembrance ceremony when his remains are returned.



THE AURORA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of COLORADO meets monthly except in June, July, August and December. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month with the exception of November which is the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. All meetings begin at 1:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Aurora Central Branch Library in the Community Rooms, or via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 1:00 pm the first Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) except June, July, August and December via ZOOM. Meetings are open to the membership.

Individuals/Families may join the Society upon paying annual dues of \$20.00 per mailing address. Annual membership starts January of each year. If you join September through December of any year, the membership includes the following year. Send your remittance along with a membership application, or your name, address and telephone number to:

Membership Vice President, Aurora Genealogical Society, PO Box 31732, Aurora, CO 80041-0732
as space permits.



Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado
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