



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
1981-2021

Newsletter

of the
Aurora Genealogical Society

Volume XLI, Number 4
July-August 2021

General Meetings

No Meetings in July or August
Tuesday, 28 September 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Large 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, 28 Sep, 2021 @ 1:30 p.m. – **Gleanings from My DNA Test**, presented by Sandy Carter-Duff, Experienced Genealogist.

After presenting a brief overview of DNA testing, Sandy will discuss what she has learned about her testing results, including the point that tests confirm birth relationships, siblings don't inherit the same DNA, figuring out who your matches are as well as other findings. She cautions, don't test if you don't want to have surprises.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. - **Billion Graves**, presented by Vickie Smejkal, Experienced Genealogist

BillionGraves.com is a GPS driven site. The beauty of this program is its capability to pinpoint the geodetic location of our loved one and those buried near by – or – same surnamed persons located in other cemeteries (globally). This site is great when you are out and about and no curator is on site, as the Billion Graves app will lead you to the person you seek within a few feet, within a few minutes.

Wow! Both a free and a paid package are available.

Aurora Genealogical Society Library

Aurora Central Library, Main Floor
14949 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012
303-739-6686

Our holdings can be found at
www.librarything.com/profile/AuroraGenSociety

Open to the Public

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
or by Appointment,
call 303-740-8440 or 303-755-1179

During inclement weather,
please call ahead to ensure we are open.

Happy Birthday



USA – 4 July
Colorado – 1 August

Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado

P.O. Box 31732

Aurora, CO 80041-0732

303-739-6686

e-mail – aurgs1981@yahoo.com<http://www.freewebs.com/auroragenealogysociety>**ELECTED OFFICERS**

President	Gail Arnert
Membership Vice-President	Judy Keilman
Program & Publicity Vice-President	Judy Holtus
Recording Secretary	Jeff Adams
Treasurer	Dick Kautt
Corresponding Secretary	Marion Baumann

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Archivist	Marion Baumann
Genealogist	Dorothy Bernay
CCGS Delegate	Jeff Adams
Librarian	Alice Jablonski
	agslibrarian@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Gail Arnert
	gailarnert@yahoo.com
Newsletter Technical Support	Lori Holtus
Parliamentarian	Judy Keilman
Website	Jennifer O'Bayley

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.

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.

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.

Current Membership - 69***Message from the President***

Thank you for re-electing Judy Holtus, Dick Kautt and Jeff Adams for the offices of VP Programs & Publicity, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. They, and the rest of the Board, enjoy serving AGS. Also, thanks for approving the recommended changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Did you notice our updated AGS logo on the first page of the newsletter? Thanks to webmaster Jennifer O'Bayley, it's colorized and looks great. We'll be using it on any official correspondence we have including newsletters and bookmarks.

Great news from Alice Jablonski, our Librarian. In her words – "We are throwing open the doors! Saturday, July 17th, will be our reopening to the general public. It has been a long time coming and yet the 16 months has gone by amazingly fast. We will have the doors open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, starting with our regular hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m."

Our Society has purchased a book in memory of deceased member Judy Cassidy. Since Judy was from Wayne County, Nebraska, the book is *Wayne County, Nebraska, Newspaper Abstracts, 1876-1899*, by Maureen M. Lee, published in 2008.

From the Denver Public Library – The Central Library continues to be undergoing a large renovation project, but Western History and Genealogy will have a small outpost in the area on the first floor that will reopen this summer. The space will allow you to use materials from WHG and work with Special Collections librarians and archivists. Please stay tuned for another announcement of that date and more details on the schedule.

On Tuesday, 20 July, please pause a moment in remembrance and to 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.

Gail

Upcoming Events

(For more information, come by the AGS Library or go to the sponsoring Society website.)

Check all websites for possible cancellations due to COVID-19 restrictions

Beginning Genealogy Classes

www.cogensoc.us/

Beginner Genealogy Classes are held on the second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Classes are free but registration is required via the above website to access the class. You will be contacted with the Zoom meeting link. Next class is Saturday, 10 July 2021. Visit the website for more information.

COPALAM Fall Seminar

<http://www.copalum.us>

The Fall 2021 German Genealogical Seminar will be presented virtually via Zoom on **Saturday afternoon, 9 Oct from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** featuring Mark Rabideau.

Topic will be Researching the Eastern German Diaspora. Mr. Rabideau will focus on the German-speaking (non-Slavic-speaking) peoples of Eastern Europe and the factors that led to their emigration to America from these geographic regions:

The Kingdom of Prussia
The Austro-Hungarian Empire
Germans From Russia
Russian and Prussian Poland

There will be a fee of \$25.00 per person for this seminar. You will be sent an email confirmation when your registration and payment are received. An email with the Zoom access details, along with the link enabling you to download the handout. Refunds will not be permitted after the Zoom access and handout information has been sent. An email reminder will be sent out the morning of the seminar.

Go to the above website for more details and online registration.

Websites

Olive Tree Genealogy

www.olivetreegenealogy.com

suggested by Alice Jablonski

Olive Tree Genealogy, created by Lorine in February 1996 was started to bring genealogists **FREE** genealogy records. Olive Tree Genealogy has more than 1,900 pages of free genealogy records to help you find your brick-wall ancestors and build your family tree.

Genealogy records transcribed for Olive Tree Genealogy are **FREE** and will help you find your elusive ancestor. Allow yourself lots of time to look around. Let each page load before making your next choice.

Olive Tree Genealogy has Passenger Lists, Immigration Tips, Canada, Military, Genealogy Guides, Loyalists, New Netherland, Native American, Palatine, Photo Albums ...and more.

Rhode Island Vital Records

https://sosri.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/so_aa84016c-a20c-4a02-8f03-eae14378f70a/

The Rhode Island State Archives has launched a set of state-copy vital records online, available for free. These records cover the following periods:

- Birth Registrations, 1853-1920
- Death Registrations, 1853-1921
- Marriage Registrations, 1853-1920

Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library, Lansing, Iowa

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

---from The Weekly Genealogist, 30 June 2021

The city of Lansing is located in Allamakee County, in the northeastern corner of Iowa. The Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library has made a newspaper database available on its website. The newspaper collection comprises nineteen titles including the following: *The Allamakee Journal* (1882-1922), *Lansing Mirror* (1874-1902), *The Allamakee Journal and Lansing Mirror* (1922-1924), *Lansing Journal* (1880-1882), and more.

New in the Library

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the North American Indian, by James Ciment, 1992.

Colorado DAR Member & Ancestor Index, compiled by Colorado State Society, NSDAR, 1998.

Huron County [OH] First Families, compiled by Huron County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, undated.

Seneca County, Ohio Bible Records, Vol. 1, compiled by Seneca County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1983.

Early Colorado Marriages, 1863, Rocky Mountain News, 1863.

Virginia Makes the Poorest Figure of Any State, The Virginia Infantry at the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777-1778, Vol. I, by Joseph Lee Boyle, 2019.

Revolutionary Patriots of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, by Henry C. Peden Jr., 2012.

First Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1785-1813, compiled by DAR, Thomas Hughart Chapter, 2009.

Lawyers from Denver, A Century of Service to the West and the Nation, by Philip E. Gauthier, 1992.

Your Country Needs You, Cadet Nurses of World War II, by Thelma M. Robinson, 2009.

Scottish Genealogy, The Basics and Beyond, by David Dobson, 2021.

The Wandering Gene and the Indian Princess – Race, Religion, and DNA, by Jeff Wheelwright, 2012.

A Pause for Our Patriots, by Massey Harbison-Fort Hand Chapter NSDAR, 2020.

LibraryThing.com

This is a repeat of an article previously published.

LibraryThing is an online service to help people catalog their books easily. You can access the catalog from anywhere – even on a mobile phone. Former AGS Member and a previous Librarian, Mary Trogg, started this project and we continue to add to our online library.

To access our holdings at LibraryThing.com:

- Go to www.librarything.com
- Put AuroraGenSociety in the “search site” box (top right corner of page),
- When the next page comes up, along the left side of the page, select “Members” under **Social**,
- AuroraGenSociety comes up,
- Click on the AuroraGenSociety link,
- Next to **Collections** Click on “Your Library”,
- On the right side you can “Search” using a full or partial title, author or a keyword (such as yearbook, tax, land, Connecticut, Military, etc.),
- A list of the books we have will come up,
- If you wish to find books on a particular subject, such as Map, Computer, Colorado, Scotland, Immigration, etc., along the top click on “Tags.” Up comes a list of all the “Tags” we have created. Click on the tag of interest and the list of books in that category will come up.

Most of our titles are in LibraryThing. If you are in our AGS library, on the computer desktop is an Excel document titled *AGS Holdings*. This document is a list of **all** our titles. This list is sorted by location (state, country, or subject such as Ohio, Wales, Guide, Immigration, Military...) then by author and title. If you are looking for a specific book, ask a volunteer for assistance.

Book Review from our Librarian

---submitted by Alice Jablonski

I have an acquaintance who was requested by her doctor to have a DNA test administered, due to high rates of cancer in her immediate family. One question she did not anticipate in the paperwork was: Do you have any family from the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado?

Her answer was yes, having only Hispanic heritage. The doctor revealed that there is a very specific strain of breast cancer particular to that region. That news is intriguing on its own. What is even more intriguing is that that strain of breast cancer can be traced back centuries to Ashkenazi Jews in Europe!

The doctor recommended the book, *The Wandering Gene and the Indian Princess*, and I was interested enough to purchase it for our library. I feel that DNA can answer questions for people that documents alone cannot - the subject demands that we open our minds and stretch our thinking.

This book, by Jeff Wheelwright, which will be shelved in our DNA/Health section, is written from a personal perspective of the extended Medina family in southern Colorado. The intricacies of DNA are explained, the actual makeup of the gene exposed, and the origins of the mutated gene from 2,500 years ago are traced forward to their present location.

It is an easy read and a fascinating way to learn more about migration patterns of people, including the religious persecution and forced conversions upon the Jewish community, and the detailed heritage that lies within each of us.

This article has a happy ending – my acquaintance came back with a clean bill of health and no evidence of any cancer genes in her DNA.

The happy ending to the story is that my acquaintance did not have any genetic cancer markers.

Graduation Lists in the Newspapers

---recommended by AGS member Judy Keilman

---by David A. Norris, *Internet Genealogy & Your Genealogy Today* author

School records for your family history can appear in unexpected places. If you can't find official school or class rosters naming a particular ancestor, they might still be listed in a newspaper. Small town as well as city newspapers in the 19th and early 20th centuries eyed their local schools and academies with special attention. It was not uncommon to list all the local graduating students. Many newspapers gave detailed coverage of closing ceremonies, describing student oral, musical, and dance recitals. Graduates from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point often had their names printed coast-to-coast in newspapers of the 1800s.

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Funeral Directors' Records

---recommended by AGS member Judy Keilman

---by Joe Grandinetti, *Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today* author

The typical methods of research surrounding family demises involve examining death certificates, obituaries, and cemetery archives. In such undertakings, don't forget the records of the undertakers themselves. Historical funeral home records most often took the form of handwritten account books, much like those of old-time shopkeepers tabulating customer transactions. The entries therein have much to offer genealogists in the way of personal details of the ceremony involved in ancestral sendoffs. Note that such record sets are rarely available on the large online websites. If they've survived neglect, damage/decay, and (most threatening), business ownership changes, the books likely remain tucked away at the funeral home, or perhaps in the collection of a local genealogical society. If accessible, the records can reveal the details of the funeral in terms of the material items (casket, clothing, floral arrangements, etc.) as well as attendee information - occasionally even listing the monetary mounts of specific mourner contributions!

Aurora Family History Center
950 Laredo Street, Aurora, CO 80011
303-367-0570

As of 18 June, the Aurora Family History Center is open Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. by appointment only.

It will fully open on 7 July 2021, meaning, no appointment necessary. Those who have not been vaccinated must wear a mask.

For additional information, call before going.

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First Families of Colorado Certificate

Do you have a direct ancestor who lived in Colorado at least 100 years before July 2021? 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.

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.

Connecticut Birth Records

--- EOGN, 10 June 2021

The following announcement is extracted from the IAJGS mailing list and is republished here with permission:

Following an emotional and personal debate over whether privacy rights of birth parents should override the rights of adoptees seeking information about their past, Connecticut is now the 10th state to guarantee original birth certificate access. Governor Ned Lamont's signature on the legislation—HB 6105—this week makes approximately 40,000 adoptees in Connecticut able to access to their original birth certificates.

Prior to this legislation, the state first sealed birth records in 1944 and then unsealed adoptions going forth in 1983. So for those adopted between 1944 and 1983 could not access their original birth records.

* * * * *

Ancestors

*If you could see your ancestors
 All standing in a row,
 I expect you would find there
 One or two you wouldn't care to know.
 Because in climbing family trees
 One always meets a few
 Who get there by irregular steps
 As such folks always do.
 If you should meet your ancestors
 All standing in a row,
 You would surely find there one or two
 Whom you would be proud to know.
 But here's another question
 Which requires a different view.
 If you should meet your ancestors
 Would they be proud of you?*

--- from *The Sunny Side of Genealogy*,
 compiled by Fonda D. Baselt

This recent project comes to us from AGS Member Ellen Westbrook. It's a removable family tree decal she got from Amazon for \$20. What a great way to display your family! Might even generate some questions from the family and get them interested in family history.



THE AURORA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of COLORADO meets monthly except in June, July, August and December. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month. Afternoon meetings are in Sep, Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar and May and begin at 1:30 p.m. Evening meetings are in Oct and Apr and begin at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Aurora Central Branch Library in the Community Rooms. 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, in the AGS Library Room. 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

All members will receive newsletters, electronically or via USPS.

Queries will be accepted for publication as space permits.



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PO Box 31732
Aurora, CO 80041-0732