



Newsletter

of the
Aurora Genealogical Society

Volume XL, Number 4
July-August 2020

General Meetings

No Meetings in July and August
Tuesday, 22 September 2020, 1:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 @ 1:30 p.m.:
Four Essential Building Blocks to Organizing Your Genealogy
VIRTUAL via Zoom

Presented by Julie Miller, Certified Genealogist

Feeling unorganized and overwhelmed? Incorporate these simple methods into your existing organizing system or use them as the foundation of a new system.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.:
Hiding in Plain Database: Tips & Tricks for Finding Exactly the Records You're After
VIRTUAL via Zoom

Presented by Dina Carson, Experienced Genealogist

You will learn how to narrow the results, broaden the results, and use bread-crumbs for navigation when searching databases for information.

Aurora Genealogical Society Library

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

Open to the Public

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For Other Times/Appointments,
303-740-8440 or 303-755-1179

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

Library Closures

Library is closed until further notice.

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 – aargs1981@yahoo.com<http://www.freewebs.com/auroragenealogysociety>**ELECTED OFFICERS**

President	Gail Arnert
Membership Vice-President	Judy Keilman
Program Vice-President & Publicity	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
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 aargs1981@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.

Membership

Total members: 73

Message from the President

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

As you can see, our programs for September and October will be via Zoom. If you haven't already participated in a Zoom meeting, it's really fairly easy. Before the meeting I will send you the meeting invite with a meeting code so you can log in and watch the meeting. We did this in May with our speaker Pam Heath and it went very well. You don't have to be super tech savvy. Just need an electronic device such as a desktop or laptop computer, an iPad or something similar, or a smartphone. Please give it a try for our next meeting.

When will we meet again in person? A question we don't have a definitive answer for. Aurora Libraries are still closed except for curbside pickup for books on hold at several branches. AGS Librarian Alice Jablonski and I have decided NOT to open the AGS Library during July even if Aurora Libraries open.

What to do? Watch all those free webinars. Do those exhaustive searches on FamilySearch, Ancestry and the many other web sites.

Continue to stay at home and stay safe.

Gail

New Recording Secretary

Please welcome member Jeff Adams to his newest AGS Board position. He has agreed to fill the remaining year of Barb Bickerton's term as Recording Secretary. Barb has resigned her position but will continue to be an active member of AGS.

New in the Library

Our holdings are listed at
www.librarything.com/profile/AuroraGenSociety

Dorset Pilgrims: The Story of West Country Pilgrims Who Went to New England in the 17th Century, by Frank Thistlethwaite, 1993.

Voyage to Freedom – A Story of the Atlantic Crossing, David Gay, 1984.

History of Bridgewater [MA], by Old Bridgewater Historical Society, 1986.

The Soldierly of West Virginia in the French and Indian War; Lord Dunmore's War; the Revolution; the Later Indian Wars; the Whiskey Insurrection; the Second War with England; the War with Mexico. And Addenda Relating to West Virginians in the Civil War, by Virgil Anson Lewis, 2006.

West Virginians in the American Revolution, by Ross B. Johnson, 1959.

From Viking Glory: Notes on the McCorkle Family in Scotland and America, by Rev. Louis McCorkle, 1982.

Early Kanawha County [WV] Marriages, Parts 1-3, by Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society, undated.

The Reagan I Knew, by William F. Buckley Jr., 2008.

The Appalachians: America's First and Last Frontier, by Mari-Lynn Evans, 2004.

Vital Records of the Towns of Barnstable and Sandwich [MA], by Col. Leonard H. Jr, and Norma Smith, 1992.

World War II and the People of Lincoln County [CO], by Alice Potter, 1993.

LibraryThing.com

This is an update of an article published last year.

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 AGS 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”, then search
- On the right side you can “Search This Library” 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, etc.), then by author and title. If you are looking for a specific book, ask a volunteer for assistance.

Upcoming Events

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

In general most in-person events have been canceled and are being held virtually. Always check online to verify the status of any conference or meeting.

Beginning Genealogy Classes

www.cogensoc.us/

The next Beginning Genealogy Class will be Saturday, 11 July 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon via Zoom. You will need to register in advance to get a confirmation email about joining the meeting. Register at the above website to attend and for more information.

W.I.S.E. English Research Seminar

<https://wise-fhs.org>

25 July 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., via Zoom, featuring David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Materials fee is \$40. Registration is available online.

2 – 5 September 2020 – **FGS National Conference.** Theme is “Explore America’s Trail to the Western Frontier.” This is now a virtual conference. Registration and more information at <fgs.org/conferences>

2020 Swedish Genealogy Workshop

oldmillmuseum.org

The fall 2020 Swedish Genealogy Workshop will be held 10-11 Oct 2020 in Lindsborg, KS. Multiple topics to include *Using ArkivDigital*, *Swedish Church Records*, *Planning a Heritage Trip* and more. Flyers with more information and registration are available at meetings, in our library, online or by calling (785) 227-3595.

Research Reminders

MyHeritage library edition is available in the Aurora libraries or from home using your Aurora Library card.

Check other sites available from the Aurora Public Library website. In the databases under *History* are History Colorado (7-day pass available) and New York Public Library Digital Collection.

Recheck all your favorites and other little used sites you have gone to over the years. They have probably added information and if you are lucky, it’s about your ancestor.

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From the Aurora Family History Center

The Family History Center is closed for now. Director Vickie Smejkal has offered a few tidbits and insights to share with you:

- Check out the Research Wiki – there has been a subtle change made to the left side of the Research Wiki page – things have been compartmentalized.
- The Social Security Applications and Claims Index lists any name changes. This is a great way to find women's married names. One mystery was solved because a man had changed both his first and last names, and it was on the index.
- From a FamilySearch Blog – Untangling the Centimorgans on your DNA Test – <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/centimorgan-chart-understanding-dna/>
- View the many videos the Center has been sharing via their Face book site: www.facebook.com/AuroraColoradoFamilyHistoryCenter

Websites

Michigan Research *michiganology.org*

If you once used *seekingmichigan.org* for Michigan death certificates, the place to go is now *michiganology.org*. In addition to death records, you can find Rural Property Inventories, state census records, naturalization, and plenty of Michigan state history.

Best Genealogy Books per familytree readers

https://www.familytreemagazine.com/resources/books/best-genealogy-books-results/?trk_msg=K4EI5B2M8K7KBB815STA8EAMCO&trk_contact=JH0M48VN738RVB5AQTPEO26J28&trk_module=new&trk_sid=9POEVRVNOB92TSSH6C0NHKE75S&utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=The+10+Best+Genealogy+Books+According+to+Our+Readers&utm_campaign=FT+Newsletter&utm_content=05-05-2020

Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1968

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesmvc/deathcertificates/>

--- recommended by AGS Member, Barb Walker

This is a FREE searchable database for Missouri death records from 1910-1968. It contains copies of actual death certificates, which in most cases contain birth and death dates of the deceased person, names of spouse and parents as well parents' birth places (if known). I found the cause of death for one individual especially interesting: *Fracture of skull, laceration of brain due to plane crash with light pole on attempted landing, darkness.* You can't make this stuff up! The website gives you the option to download and/or print them.

For Missouri Birth & Death Records Database, Pre-1910 try

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/BirthDeath/>

New York Newspaper Databases

<http://pioneerlibrarysystem.advantage-preservation.com>
and

<http://perrypubliclibrary.advantage-preservation.com>

--from *The Weekly Genealogist*, 18 Dec 2019

Two public libraries systems in western New York, Pioneer Library System and Perry Library System, have made newspaper databases available on their websites. To begin your search of either of the digital newspaper archives, enter your search terms in the search box. Choose the type of search you would like to run from the dropdown list and limit results by date or date range. The databases can also be browsed by title or by year. Click the newspaper title for a digital image of the page.

The digital library of the Pioneer Library System archive is drawn from Livingston, Ontario, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

The Perry Library System archive of newspapers is from Wyoming County, with a focus on the town of Perry.

Woodlawn Cemetery, Canandaigua, New York

<http://www.woodlawncemeterycca.org/index.html>

--from *The Weekly Genealogist*, 20 May 2020

The city of Canandaigua is located in Ontario County in western New York. It is the county seat. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Canandaigua established Woodlawn Cemetery in 1884 on 28 acres. The cemetery currently covers 80 acres.

The Woodlawn Cemetery website provides a burials database. Click the "Burial Listings" link to browse nearly 14,000 records in the database. The data fields are last name, first name, middle name, date of birth or age of the deceased, date of death, place of death, grave location (section/lot number), and date buried.

Click the "Maps" link for a cemetery map, maps of individual sections, and maps of cremation niches.

First Families of Colorado Certificate

Do you have a direct ancestor who lived in Colorado at least 100 years before July 2020? 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.

Technique for Dealing with Hard to Read Names or Places

---article by John M. Hoenig,
Internet Genealogy and *Your Genealogy Today* author,
Aug 2019

An extremely effective technique for dealing with hard to read names or places is to ask several people to read the penmanship. I struggled with a passenger manifest and the best I could come up with was "Uncle Leonid Peller." I showed it to two women at work who like genealogical challenges and they spent their lunch hour studying the name. They finally said "Uncle Moses F. Peller," quite different from the given name Leonid! I then found the grave of Moses J. Peller and he turned out to be the person in the manifest. My friends got awfully close to the right name.

Pruning Our Trees

Not outside but our Genealogy trees. It's a great time to get online or into our software and look at duplicate people. The Barefoot Genealogist has an online Webinar on YouTube that can help. Go to - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdawS6hUYws>.

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Family History Library Classes and Webinars

Although the Library is closed, online Classes and Webinars are available to us - check out the Web Page and be sure to scroll through and click on any links you are interested in: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

The webinars and classes are done via Zoom.

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You spend an eternity looking for your grandmother's maiden name, and when you find it, your mother tells you she already knew that but you had never asked her.

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

She's descended from a long line her mother listened to.

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

**Understanding Denver Streets' Decimal; or
Why the Intersection of Broadway and
Ellsworth is so Important**

- - - by Brian K, Trembath, *Western History & Genealogy
News*

Whether you've just moved to the Mile-High City or you've lived here your whole life, decoding Denver's street can be a real challenge. But the mystery of how the Denver street grid is laid out can be somewhat easily solved once you understand the importance of the intersection of Broadway and Ellsworth to the streets off the downtown grid.

While there are plenty of resources for helping decode Denver streets, we've found that local historian Phil Goodstein's encyclopedic work, *Denver Streets: Names, Numbers and Logic* (New Social Publication, 1994) provides the most succinct descriptions and was the main source for this blog.

To better understand why Broadway and Ellsworth is the nexus of Denver streets, you have to go back the late 1880's when Denver street names and naming conventions were something of a free-for-all. Street names were frequently assigned by land developers and little heed was given to the difference between streets and avenues. Though some attempts were taken to govern this mess, Goodstein points out that there was generally, "no correlation between an address and the location of the street."

In 1887, the city introduced a system that allowed for addresses to consistently identify their distance from a central nexus, which turned out to be Broadway and Ellsworth. But why that intersection? To answer that question, you have to go back to 1886 when Denver had only seventeen numbered avenues which began at Seventeenth Avenue and counted down to First Avenue. "The road one block south of First Avenue, Ellsworth Avenue, was consequently defined as being the zero axis dividing the north-numbered from south numbered streets," Goodstein says.

The decimal system of 1887 codified a system in which Broadway is the dividing line between east and west avenues; and Ellsworth is the dividing line between north and south streets. There is one catch that Denver travelers should be aware of: streets that aren't specifically labeled "South" are always north of Ellsworth while avenues without the specification "west" are east of Broadway.

For the downtown grid, which is diagonal mostly because it was laid out to follow the Platte River, a different decimal system is used. This one counts from the north using Broadway and Colfax as its nexus.

Each block was also assigned a number based on its proximity to the nexus. For example, Goodstein points out that Federal Boulevard is 30 blocks west of Broadway hence it is the 3000 west block.

But decimals weren't the only thing that came out of the 1887 re-ordering. City planners also introduced some order into how buildings in Denver were numbered. Since 1887, buildings on the east or south side of the street must have an even number. Buildings on the north or west side of the street must have an odd number. Though the origins of this system were rooted in Denver's earliest days, they weren't written into law until 1887.

Various other efforts to impose order on to Denver's unruly street grid, including the fabled Mahoney System, have been undertaken over the years with varying degrees of success. Every plan had to overcome major hurdles, such as the fact that "Denver" is something of a moving target that's composed of multiple, annexed municipalities that never considered they would one day be part of the Mile-High City. But with a basic knowledge of the decimal system, and an understanding of the importance of Broadway and Ellsworth, understanding Denver's Streets gets a whole lot easier.

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 p.m. 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.



Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado
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