



Aurora Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 31732, Aurora CO 80041-0732

Volume XLIV, Number 1
January-February 2025

General Meetings

Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 1:00 pm, via Zoom
Tuesday, 25 February 2025, 1:00 pm. via Zoom
Hoffman Heights Branch Library
Community Room
1298 Peoria St
Aurora, CO 80011

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 1:00 pm

Territorial Records in the U. S. - You might be surprised! Zoom meeting.

Presented by Sylvia Tracy-Doolos, Experienced Genealogist

As our nation grew, territories began to record records to achieve statehood

Tuesday, 25 February 2025, 1:00 pm

Finding Aid and the National Archives.

ZOOM Meeting

Presented by Craig Scott CG, FUGA

The National Archives of the United States documents American history from the time of the first Continental. That is a lot of paper, pictures and other things. So much in fact that it requires organization. Organization means that there are rules about how things will be filed and how they can be located once they are stored. Finding aids that describes the various publications, such as guides and indexes, microfilm, reference information, inventories and other tools that have been created to assist either the researcher or archivist.

Aurora Genealogical Society Room

We will initially hold our classes and membership meetings in the Conference Room on the lower level. There is both elevator and stair access, as well as rest rooms on this level.

The large room, to the right of the conference room, will soon be the room just for us. We need our MOU and Insurance in place before we can occupy. MOU is done and just need signatures. Insurance should be done this week. Will let you know when it happens.

Volunteers are Needed

Please consider volunteering for the AGS. Training is provided. You'll always work with someone until you feel comfortable going solo. It's fun, you meet some very interesting people, and you get a chance to do your own research.

**It's time to renew your membership.
The application is on page 7.**

Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado

P.O. Box 31732

Aurora, CO 80041-0732

email – aurgs1981@yahoo.com

Website

<https://www.auroragenealogicalsociety.com/>

Face Book

<https://www.facebook.com/AuroraGenealogicalSocietyCO>**ELECTED OFFICERS**

President	Gail Arnert arnertgen@gmail.com
Membership Vice-President	Jeff Adams
Program Vice-President & Publicity	Judy Holtus
Secretary	Open position
Treasurer	Dick Kautt

APPOINTED POSITIONS

2025 Nominating Committee	2 members needed
CCGS Delegate	Jeff Adams
Genealogist	Barbara Walker
Newsletter Editor	Gail Arnert
Newsletter Technical Support	Lori Holtus
Parliamentarian	Dick Kautt
Website, Facebook, etc.	Vickie Smijkal

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.

Email 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

We currently have 56 members.

Our newest member is Gale Nash of Aurora who has returned after being absent for several years.

Message From the President

Welcome back. Hope your holidays were as pleasant as mine. Did you get those genealogy related items that were on your gift lists? Now it's time to make those new year resolutions. My most important genealogy related ones are to complete the applications and gather the documentation for entry into Seneca County [OH] First Families, and Huron County [OH] First Families. Wish me luck. This been on my resolution list for a loooong time

2024 has been a rather tough year for the society. Not only did we have to leave Central, but after we liquidated most of our holdings, we were offered space at Hoffman Heights. Looks like things will be working out for us.

We're offering more classes and advertising in about 5-6 venues in an effort to increase our membership. Also, Judy Holtus, our Program VP has some great programs for the membership.

Come to our meetings. Meet people and share the great hobby we share. Genealogy is the best.

Gail

AGS Website and Face Book

<https://www.auroragenealogicalsociety.com/>

Our new website is up and running! Don't forget to bookmark the site when you first use it. The pictures are also linked - so click on one or more or all three and see where it takes you.

Please help us get our site out there and noticed on the Google search pages by visiting our website often.

And since it will continue to be under construction and updated, please feel free to share ideas and thoughts as to what you would like to see on OUR website. Of course, it should be something that a genealogical page should have, and something members and guests would love to discover and/or learn.

And . . .

Check out our Face Book page . . .we've been adding info there as well. Another reminder, please visit often.

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

Did You Know?

---from DPL Special Collections & Archives News, January 2025

On January 1, 2025, any work published with a copyright notice in the United States in 1929 enters the public domain. Public domain simply means that a work is no longer subject to copyright and is available to the public as a whole. The work is free to be copied in its entirety, reused, adapted, or distributed.

Festival of Wreaths

The AGS entry, designed by Jewel Smejkal, sold for \$30. The buyer, in addition to getting a beautiful wreath, also received a free membership to AGS should they decide to join.

Now that I have a computer for my genealogical records, I find that my records are just as confused as before, however, now my confusion is better organized.

---Jack W. Briscoe

Resources at the Aurora History Museum

The Aurora History Museum Archive is probably one of the more underutilized resources for information about Aurora. Located on the second floor of the Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, 80012, the archives are available to researchers during museum hours and by making an appointment in advance.

The archive is a collection of reference materials, photographs, newspapers and documents about Aurora's past. Some of the resources include Aurora directories for 1930, 1931, 1934, 1938, 1948, 1952-1955 and 1962. It also has Denver Suburban directories for 1896 and almost all years from 1922-1986. Other items include merchant and professional directories from the 1950's and 1960's, high school yearbooks, and some early school records from the 1930's and 1940's.

For more information and to search the collection, visit the website at <https://www.auroragov.org/AuroraGov/index.htm>.

From the Quick Links on the right side of the page, select Arts & Culture. Again, from the Quick Links select Aurora History Museum. By selecting Collections & Archives or Collections Online, you can see more that is offered.

To schedule a research appointment, call the Museum at 303-739-6666/6660.

Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records

Suggested by AGS Member Judy Holtus

Joe Beine maintains an online site that is simple in design but valuable to genealogists. The Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records website is a directory of links to other websites containing online death indexes, listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery and burial records. You can also find information about searching the Social Security Death Index online.

The site also provides links to death records in several large cities, including: Chicago & Cook County Death Records, Cincinnati Death Records, Cleveland Death Records, Detroit Death Records, Los Angeles Death Records, New York City Death Records and St. Louis Death Records.

The Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records may be found at <http://www.deathindexes.com>.

On Eternal Patrol

recommended by an AGS Library Visitor

<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/> is a wonderful website created by Charles R. Hinman dedicated to all men lost while serving in the U.S. Submarine Force. It provides information on boats and personnel (many with pictures) for Pre-WWII, WWII, and Post-WWII.

*If you would be forgotten,
As soon as you are dead and rotten,
Either write things worthy of reading,
Or do things worth writing.
---Benjamin Franklin, May 1738*

Upcoming Classes

AGS Free Classes at Hoffman Heights and via Zoom

These classes are held at the Aurora Hoffman Heights Branch Library, 1298 Peoria St., Aurora, CO in the basement conference room from 10:30am to Noon on the dates indicated below. Reserve your space by 22 Jan 2025 by emailing

GenealogyClasses@aol.com

- 25 Jan - *If Cemeteries Could Talk*
- 22 Feb - *Military Records Hiding in Plain Sight*
- 22 Mar - *Priceless Information Hiding in Plain Sight on FindaGrave*
- 26 Apr - *Exciting Additions to Family Tree Maker That Make Searches More Powerful*

More FREE classes from the Family History Center via ZOOM

These classes are provided the second Friday of each month through May at 7pm. The exception being Saturday, Feb 15th. They are presented via Zoom with Vicki Smejkal presenting.

If you are interested in attending any of these classes, please provide Vickie with your name and email address. She will place you on our class email list and provide you with a ZOOM link.

Feb 15, 2025 (Saturday) FamilySearch Memories

Discussion of how to add photos, stories, documents and how to organize your gallery, create albums, edit album titles, rearrange photos in an album and much more.

Mar 14, 2025 - Censuses / Mortality Census Records

We will look at what census records tell us to include mortality census records. Censuses tell us more than just names and ages. Some provide clues to immigration, military, citizenship status, and more.

Apr 11, 2025 - Other than Federal Censuses

Using other censuses and lists such as Census of Confederate Veterans, School Censuses, Territorial Census. Police census (it's not what you think). Also the 1880 Defective, Dependent, Delinquent Classes, and Special Census of Deaf Marriages and Hearing Relatives, and more.

May 9, 2025 - FindAGrave

What a way to find obituaries, pictures, stories, lineage, and other information when you can't seem to find it anywhere else.

Mark the Date: 5 April 2025

The Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America (COPALAM), is pleased to announce that Ute Brandenburg will be the at their Spring Seminar, 5 April 2025. This is a hybrid meeting - both in-person and via Zoom. Learn more and or register at: <https://www.copalam.us/#contact>

In Memory of Ellen Marie Westbrook



Ellen was born on 10/13/1948 in Denver, Colorado to her parents Carl Francis Parker and Arline Marie Heilman Parker at Rose Memorial Hospital. She and her older sister Nancy were proud Colorado natives with several generations of Coloradans before them and after them. While growing up with two physical education teachers for parents she spent her formative years in constant motion in the outdoors, in the community, and in organizations like the Campfire Girls.

While attending high school at Aurora Central, she met her husband, Jerry. Together they shared an insatiable love of music and the world at large as it

unfolded in front of them. In the Spring of 1970 Ellen and Jerry were married.

Ellen worked as a substitute teacher for a few years before working in human resources for multiple federal agencies. Work was not her defining factor though, rather it was the joy she got from family and her multitude of activities she participated in over the years. There was a gardening club, the Colorado Water Garden Society, the Aurora Artists Guild, the Aurora Art in Public Places (AIPP) program, DAR, Aurora Genealogical Society, and others.

It was in her home in Aurora that she passed, quietly and at peace. She was a quiet woman with a gentle way about her, but her actions and passion in life echo loudly in the hearts of those who knew her.

Champaign, County, Ohio, Newspaper Database

--The Weekly Genealogist, 7/24/2024

Champaign County, seated in Urbana, is located in west central Ohio. The Champaign County Library has made a newspaper database available in its digital archives. The collection comprises over 522,000 pages from 35 local newspapers. Titles include *Urbana Daily Citizen* (1883-2020), *Urbana Citizen* (1968-1979), *Urbana Daily Democrat* (1914-1928), *Champaign Democrat* (1881-1935), *Urbana Daily Times Citizen* (1895-1910), and *Urbana Citizen And Gazette* (1849-1901). The databases are keyword searchable and can also be browsed. [Search Now](https://champaigncounty.advantage-preservation.com) <https://champaigncounty.advantage-preservation.com> (The Digital Archives of the CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LIBRARY)

Gasconade County Historical Society, Missouri

The Weekly Genealogist 7/17/2024

Gasconade County, seated in Hermann, is located in east-central Missouri. Gasconade County Historical Society has made a number of resources available under the Archives and Records section of its website. Online resources include marriage records indexes (1822-2003), Gasconade County naturalization records index, an alphabetical county probate index, and two circuit court testimony indexes, one sorted by defendant and the other plaintiff. Click the About Gasconade County link in the contents bar to learn more about its history and the histories of the county towns and villages.

<https://www.gasconadecountyhistoricalsociety.com>

DOING GENEALOGY AS YOU LIKE IT

By Carol Cooke Darrow

Genealogists come in all shapes and sizes. Genealogy is a fascinating hobby because it combines logical thinking and detective work to unpuzzle a twisted family tree.

Some have “been doing” for more than 30 years. Some of started by writing letters to various court clerks to ask for marriage records. Some of us started by writing letters to elderly family members who preserved the family history and legacy. Some became interested in genealogy more recently with the advent of DNA testing.

Today we have wonderful tools to help us in our studies. We have online databases such as ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, as well as My Heritage and Finding My Past. We have software on our computers that enables us to record information and automatically create reports and family trees. We also have various DNA testing options.

We have organizations that sponsor speakers and classes that enable us to enhance our skills and develop our research capabilities. Many have a long history of supporting the study, craft and science of genealogy.

There's a place for each of us in genealogy. Some are deep into the scientific study of DNA. Some are trying to solve the mystery of their biological parents or grandparents. Some are artists who are creating beautiful family trees to share with family. Some are writers who are preserving their research in stories of family history that their descendants can enjoy. Some are trying to verify their ancestors' military support of the American Revolution.

Take what you enjoy about genealogy - art, science, research, detective work, writing - whatever - and expand your experience in that area. There is no one path to success or enjoyment. Seek out the classes, study groups and organizations that will enhance your pleasure in this amazing hobby of genealogy.



Aurora Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 31732, Aurora CO 80041-0732

Send check or money order made payable to AGS and this form to:

Membership Vice President, Aurora Genealogical Society, PO Box 31732, Aurora, CO 80041-0732

New _____ or Renewal _____ Date of Application: _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____
(Include your 4-digit ZIP code extension)

Level of Genealogical Experience: beginner intermediate advanced

I need help with: _____

Surnames being researched: _____

I will volunteer in the AGS library Yes No (training is provided for new volunteers)

May we publish your information in the newsletter and membership directory? Yes No

E-mail Address(s): _____

Check here if you would like the newsletter e-mailed to you:

Early Membership Dues	\$	20.00 (dues paid prior to 1 Jan 2025)
Student	\$	22.00 (copy of student ID required)
Membership Dues	\$	25.00 (90 or older no need to pay dues, please fill out and return this form.)
Donation to National Archives Gift Fund	\$	_____
Donation to AGS Library Fund	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

THE AURORA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of COLORADO meets monthly except in June, July, August and December. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. Meetings begin at 1:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Aurora Hoffman Heights Branch Library in the Community Room. 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 \$25.00 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, as they are published.

Queries will be accepted for publication in the newsletter as space permits.



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