



# *Newsletter*

of the  
**Aurora Genealogical Society**

Volume XLI Number 2  
March-April 2021

## **General Meetings**

Tuesday, 23 March 2021, 1:30 p.m. – via Zoom

Tuesday, 27 April 2021, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom

Aurora Central Library  
14949 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012

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

Tuesday, 23 March 2021 @ 1:30 p.m.

### **Go Back to School: Utilizing University Resources - via Zoom**

Presented by Jen Baldwin, Experienced Genealogist

The local college or university can be one of your best tools for family history research. What they offer, how they are interconnected and how you can access these materials will all be covered in this lecture, as well as examples of using some of the unexpected or untraditional genealogical resources.

Tuesday, 27 April 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Find A Grave - via Zoom**

Presented by Vickie Smejkal, Experienced Genealogist

Findagrave.com is a free memorial site that may be used for the searching of loved ones and their relatives, and in turn, sharing their information with others. We will review the various features and functions of this site and the value it will provide in our genealogical research. There is more to this site than meets the eye.



### **Aurora Genealogical Society Library**

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**By appointment only**

Contact Librarian, Alice Jablonski via email at –  
[agslibrarian@gmail.com](mailto:agslibrarian@gmail.com)  
to make an appointment.

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

***Have you renewed your membership?***

***If not, this will be your last newsletter***

**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 Vice-President & Publicity	Judy Holtus
Recording Secretary	Jeff Adams
Treasurer	Dick Kautt
Corresponding Secretary	Marion Baumann

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Archivist/Historian	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](mailto: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.

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***Message from the President***

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Aurora Genealogical Society. Organized in 1981 with 54 Charter members, Beverly Thompson is still active. Thank you Bev for your continued interest and support!

At least through May our meetings will be held via Zoom. Come September it will depend on the Library and its decision for opening the Community Rooms.

Nine Denver Public Library branches will open for public use as of Tuesday, March 9, as part of a phased approach to reopening safely. Locations will open with limited hours to allow for cleaning and with limited capacity to allow for physical distancing. The re-opening plan for the Central Library and Blair Caldwell African American Research Library is still in development. Impacting those plans are the long-planned and much needed renovations of both buildings. In the meantime, the libraries continue to respond to requests via e-mail and telephone and look forward to seeing you as soon as possible.

If you haven't paid your 2021 dues, please do so soon. Having an e-mail address is key to receiving Zoom meeting invites.

See you at the meetings.

*Gail*

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***Nominating Committee***

With annual elections coming up in May, AGS needs a nominating committee. Gail will be asking for committee volunteers at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Elections will be for VP Programs and Publicity (currently Judy Holtus), Recording Secretary (currently Jeff Adams) and Treasurer (currently Dick Kautt). Please contact Gail for more information.

## **25 May 2021 Business Meeting**

May of each year is the Aurora Genealogical Society's annual business meeting. At this meeting we will hold elections for VP Programs & Publicity, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Nominating Committee. We will also vote on any proposed changes to the By-Laws and Standing Rules.

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### **Upcoming Events**

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

#### ***Colorado Genealogical Society***

[www.cogensoc.us/](http://www.cogensoc.us/)

This is a course for the beginner held on the second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon via Zoom. Classes are free but registration is required via the above website to access the class and you are contacted with the Zoom meeting link. Upcoming classes are scheduled for 13 Mar, 10 Apr and 8 May. Visit the website for more information.

#### ***COPALAM Spring Seminar***

<https://www.palam.org/colorado-palam-chapter.php>

The Spring 2021 German Genealogical Seminar will be presented in two parts virtually via Zoom on **Friday afternoon, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday afternoon, April 10<sup>th</sup>** featuring Teresa Steinkamp McMillin. There will be a fee of \$35.00/person for this two-day seminar. You will be sent an email confirmation when your registration and payment are received. Look for an email with the Zoom access details, along with the link enabling you to download the handouts. Refunds will not be permitted after the Zoom access and handout information has been sent. Email reminders will be sent out prior to both sessions.

#### ***CGS Spring Seminar***

[www.cogensoc.us/](http://www.cogensoc.us/)

Their Spring Seminars will be on **Friday, April 23rd, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and**

**Saturday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** Both days are free but you must register separately for each day. Registration is open. The Speaker is Crista Cowan, who works for Ancestry.com and is known online as "The Barefoot Genealogist." Go to their website for topics and times.

#### ***Save The Date –***

17-21 May 2021 – NGS Family History Conference, *Deep Roots of America*, will be a full week of virtual events. More information at <[conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org)>.

Registration is now open with Early Bird registration ending 15 March.

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#### ***From the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS)***

*---from AGS delegate, Jeff Adams*

The Council meeting was Saturday, 9 Jan 2021, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Conducting the meeting was newly elected President Marilyn Edwards-Roberts.

Justice Cain volunteered to be the new Delegate-at-Large. She's currently affiliated with CGS.

The guest speaker was Dr. Steven Beatty, Computer Sciences Chair at MSU Denver. He gave a presentation on some important information on cybersecurity issues and prevention. President Marilyn Roberts mentioned Dr. Beatty would return to give an update to his past presentation concerning several issues with fake e-mails and website issues with our member societies.

Harry Ross, Speakers Bureau, mentioned 29 Speakers have had their information updated on the CCGS website.

The Council is planning a fourth Society Management Workshop to be held in late summer or early fall this year either in person at a facility depending if the quarantine has been lifted or just on Zoom.

Carol Darrow, First Family Certificates, reported 6 new First Family, 7 new Territorial, and 14 new Centennial certificates granted in 2020.

Next meeting will be Saturday, 10 April via Zoom.

## ***Aurora History Museum Reopening***

*--- from City of Aurora Newsletter 28 Jan 2021*

We are excited to announce that on **February 2nd**, we will be reopening our doors!

On display, we have two temporary exhibits. In the exhibit "Powered by Science," discover how mechanical wonders of the 19th and 20th century work and learn about the new and innovative industries operating in our back yard. The newly-opened exhibit "Religious Diversity in Aurora," highlights the voices of Aurora citizens and religious leaders.

For the safety of visitors and staff, we ask that visitors make reservations online and wear a mask in the museum. You can reserve a time to learn more about our safety requirements by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545afac2fa02-timed2>

We can't wait to see you!

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## ***New in the Library***

*Check us out at*

[www.librarything.com/profile/AuroraGenSociety](http://www.librarything.com/profile/AuroraGenSociety)

Although we've received few donations in the past month, we still have a plethora of books to go through and the duplicate cart is full.

Please make an appointment with Librarian Alice to visit and browse. E-mail her at [<agslibrarian@gmail.com>](mailto:agslibrarian@gmail.com)



## ***Websites***

### ***Bureau of Land Management Records***

[www.glorecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorecords.blm.gov)

*--- from Speaker Carol Darrow at 1 26 2021 meeting*

Provides access to Federal Land conveyance records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than five million Federal land title Records issued between 1788 and the present. Also has images of survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records. Due to organization of documents in the GLO collection, this site **does not** currently contain every Federal title record for the Public states. Search by Land Patents, Survey Plats and Field Notes, Land Status Records, Control Document Index Records, Tract Books or Land Catalog. View and print original documents.

### ***Monroe County New York Vital Records***

<https://roccitylibrary.org/local-history-genealogy-resources/life-records>

*--- from The Weekly Genealogist, Feb 17, 2021*

The city of Rochester is located in western New York. It is the seat of Monroe County. The Rochester Public Library has made a vital records database, titled Life Records, available on its website. The index comprises birth, marriage, and death records extracted from the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* and the *Times-Union*. Currently, the indexes cover deaths from 1960 to 2016, births from 1977 to October 10, 2014, and marriages from 1965 to 2009. The database is a work in progress. The indexes can be searched by name(s) and limited to a particular year. All of the search results include name(s), date of the vital event, newspaper title, and date of publication.

### ***Norton County Kansas Records***

[nortongenealogy.com](http://nortongenealogy.com)

*--- from The Weekly Genealogist, Dec 9, 2020*

Norton County is located in northern Kansas on the Nebraska border. The city of Norton is its county seat. The Norton County Genealogical Society has made a number of resources available on its website. Click the links in the Resources contents list on the right side of the homepage to access them. The

resources include the following: early births, marriages, deaths and obituaries; Norton County maps (1878-1917); an index to landowners from the *1917 Standard Atlas of Norton County*; and a number of local history volumes. There are several cemetery databases that researchers can access by going to the Cemeteries webpage. The genealogical society has also provided researchers with an annotated bibliography of Norton County resources.

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### *Donation from Peace Pipe chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution*



On Tuesday, 12 Jan 2021, Dianne Gray, Librarian for the Peace Pipe chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, met with Alice Jablonski, our AGS Librarian, to present a book to us in memory of DAR and AGS member Nancy Jensen. The Peace Pipe chapter has had a long tradition of memorializing its deceased members by donating a book to a library or other institution of special interest to the member.

*Your Country Needs You, Cadet Nurses of World War II*, honors Nancy's longtime nursing career. Nancy was a Past Regent of the Peace Pipe chapter, and a founding member of the Aurora Genealogical Society (AGS). She was also a past president of AGS.

### ***Need Help? Contact AGS Experts***

Various members who are happy, enthusiastic, and willing to help other members and share their knowledge came forward. This effort is to encourage members helping members who are stumped by a brick wall or by researching in a specific geographical area (US or international), a timeframe (1600s, 1800s, etc.), a War, Church records, genealogy programs, websites, and the list goes on.

Our initial list and contact information:

- Vickie Smejkal - 1) getting people started with their Family History 2) can assist with the use of a stand-alone computer program called Ancestral Quest 3) teach the use of FamilySearch.org 4) assist with using findagrave.com and Billiongraves.com 5) lead and guide in the general field of Family History, however; no real expertise in any particular area, place, era.  
[VickieSmejkal@Comcast.net](mailto:VickieSmejkal@Comcast.net)  
303-877-6251
- Judy Holtus – Danish research  
Contact through AGS Librarian  
[agslibrarian@gmail.com](mailto:agslibrarian@gmail.com)
- Dick Kautt – assistance with 1) German research; and 2) understanding legal terms and situations, e.g., probate, inheritance, etc.  
[rwkanwalt@gmail.com](mailto:rwkanwalt@gmail.com)  
303-683-3468
- Dorothy Bernay – assistance with Family Tree Maker, States: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Texas.  
[debernay2@gmail.com](mailto:debernay2@gmail.com)  
303-363-6290
- Melanie Golden - generalist to help “flesh out” the family and document family/personal stories. Willing to help with searches.  
[melgolden@aol.com](mailto:melgolden@aol.com)  
303-931-7583
- Gail Arnert – northern Ohio  
[gailarnert@yahoo.com](mailto:gailarnert@yahoo.com)
- Sandy Syring – Cherokee & American Indian Tribes  
[samjaksmom@gmail.com](mailto:samjaksmom@gmail.com)

*The Old Letters*

*written by Wilhelm Müller, as a WWI chaplain, on the French front in 1915*

I rummage through old letters that have slept for decades long,  
About to toss them to the flames, I realize that was wrong.  
As I began to read of all that once had been, I knew, I couldn't do it,  
couldn't burn these words of men.

How those yellowed papers so warmly spoke to me,  
A soul shining through the page, I couldn't let it be.  
Letters from a mother, seeped with her selfless heart,  
her endless care for children apparent from the start.  
I read her loving words so loyal, kind and true.  
Such good they did to me, my sense of safety grew.

And touching notes from children – forming letters wide-eyed,  
Seeing their little faces shining with joy and pride and, the writing over  
on paper, oh so fine, I see their bitter tears as well when missing a stroke or line.

Adoring letters of friendship from old romantic days,  
swearing to a lover to keep one's heart ablaze.  
How soon this passion fades away as time does take its course.  
This token of remembrance recalls the relationship's source.

I cannot part with these letters, which speak to my very soul.  
These letters are the hearts of men.  
To the flames, they shall not go.

Wilhelm was Katherine Schober's ([sktranslations.com](http://sktranslations.com)) great great grandfather.





# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 or a membership directory? Yes  No

E-mail Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Dues	\$	20.00
Donation to AGS Library Fund	\$	_____
Donation to National Archives Gift Fund	\$	_____
Donation to AGS Speaker Expense Fund	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

THE AURORA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of COLORADO meets monthly except in June, July, August and December. Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**PO Box 31732**  
**Aurora, CO 80041-0732**