



Newsletter

of the
Aurora Genealogical Society

Volume XLI, Number 5
September-October 2024

General Membership Meetings

Tuesday, 24 September 2024, 1:00 pm - IN PERSON/HYBRID

Tuesday, 22 October 2024, 1:00 pm IN PERSON/HYBRID

Tuesday, 3 December 2024 1:00 pm - ZOOM only

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

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

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 @ 1:00 pm:

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, October 22, 2024 @ 1:00 pm:

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.

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 1:00 pm:

Introduction to the Family History Guide ZOOM ONLY

Presented by Bob Taylor, Developer and Trainer

The Family History Guide is a free website and best-in-class online center for learning how to research family history. Its broad scope but narrow focus helps you reach your goals, step by step, whether you're brand new to family history, a seasoned researcher or somewhere in between.

Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado

P.O. Box 31732
Aurora, CO 80041-0732
e-mail – aurgs1981@yahoo.com
<https://aurgs1981.wixsite.com/auroragenealogicalso>

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Gail Arnert (303) 755-1179 arnertgen@gmail.com
Membership Vice-President	OPEN
Program Vice-President & Publicity	Judy Holtus
Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Dick Kautt

APPOINTED POSITIONS

CCGS Delegate	Jeff Adams
Genealogist	Barb Walker
Historian	Jeff Adams
Newsletter Editor	Gail Arnert gailarnert@yahoo.com
Newsletter Technical Support	Lori Holtus
Parliamentarian	Dick Kautt
Website	Vickie Smejkal
Facebook	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.

Message from the President

It's time to renew your membership for the 2025 year. An application is on page 34 of this newsletter. This has been the first dues increase since 2019.

The reasons for the dues increase are explained, and an option for a discount is on page 30.

Over the summer, we, Melanie Golden, Judy Holtus, and myself, were approached by Hoffman Heights with an offer for office and meeting space. Details are still being worked out. Our September and October membership meetings will be at Central and after that at Hoffman Heights.

We'll also offer classes at both Central and Hoffman Heights.

I know it's early to be thinking about the holidays, but put genealogy related items on your wish list and maybe you'll get lucky.

See you at the meetings.

Gail

"We need to haunt the halls of history and listen anew to the ancestors' wisdom. We must ask questions and find answers that will help us to avoid falling into the merciless maw of history."

--- Poet Maya Angelou in her 1991 New York Times op/ed "I Dare to Hope," explaining her support of Supreme Court Justice then nominee-Clarence Thomas.

Upcoming Events

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

Raising Dues!

Like everything else in today's economy, the price of keeping our genealogical society viable has gone up. This is our first increase since 2019.

The reasons for the increase are:

- 1 - The cost of speaker fees has gone up significantly
- 2 - To cover the cost of our new and improved website
- 3 - Cost of stamps has increased
- 4 - PO Box fee has increased
- 5 - Although we won't pay rent for our space at Hoffman Heights, we are required to have liability insurance.

We propose to increase membership dues from \$20 to \$25.

We propose an 'Early Bird' incentive fee of \$20.00, a saving of \$5.00 to those who submit their membership dues before the 1st of January.

And we propose a 'Student Rate' of \$22 (must provide copy of student ID).

The membership will vote on this increase at the 24 September 2024 meeting.

From a Friend

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough."

COPALAM Fall Seminar

<http://www.copalam.us>

The Fall 2024 Colorado Palatines to America Seminar will be presented in-person and by Zoom **Saturday, 23 Nov 2024.**

Speaker will be Warren Bitner on the following topics:

- German Published Sources
- Meyers Gazetteer
- Pity the Poor Pfuht: Proving an Immigrant Identity
- German Marriage Custom and Records

There will be a fee of \$40.00 per PALAM member or \$50.00 for non-members for this seminar. You will be sent an email confirmation when your registration and payment are received and 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.

From the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS)

The fall Council meeting will be held 12 October 2024 via Zoom.

Family History Center Premium Websites

The following websites are available for free at our Aurora Family History Center, or any other Family History Center, and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

- 19th Century British Library Digital Archives – news articles, obits, marriage records, death records, military records, etc.
- Alexander Street Press-The Civil War – information on soldiers, battles, photographs, and more
- Fold3 – military records; Crews/Ship registers; Civil War Pension records; American Indian records
- Kinpoint – find problems in your family tree, create stories, memories
- newspapers.com – one of the largest online collections of newspapers
- Paper Trail – 19th century westward American migration documents, mostly information of the Oregon Trail
- Puzzilla.org – colored coded family tree; research opportunities
- ancestry.com – records, state and federal censuses, news articles, military records, travel records, marriage records, books, and more
- FindMyPast.com – millions of records, most comprehensive archive of British military records
- Geneanet.org – genealogy records published by researchers, genealogy societies, commercial companies, etc.; focus on French and European records and research
- MyHeritage.com – easy to use family history research site

Put Aside Your Research

--- Diane L. Richard,
*Internet Genealogy, Vol. 7, #4 and
Your Genealogy Today author*

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to stop working on your research. I know that this can seem counter-intuitive; it feels like a waste of time and if you are “banging your head against a wall” and/or not having fun/success, what do you have to lose? I like to say that “absence makes the heart grow fonder.” And, to make everyone groan, I will also mention that sometimes we “lose sight of the forest for the trees.” We get so caught up in what we are doing at a nitty-gritty level that we lose sight of the bigger picture. Sometimes, the best way to see the bigger picture is to take a break, step away, and far enough away that the details begin to fade, and then re-visit what you think you know with fresh eyes. It can be amazing what we will “see” that we weren’t seeing before, after taking that break. If nothing else, we bring new energy and, often, we truly do see connections and strategies that we were blind to previously. It’s just not enough to work hard at our genealogy research, it is important to be creative in our problem solving and that’s not always possible when one is “in the thick of things!”

* * * * *

Who remembers



the first search engine?

Websites

Huron County Community Library

Newspapers, Ohio

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

---from *The Weekly Genealogist*, 14 Aug 2024

Huron County, seated in Norwalk, is located in northern Ohio. The Huron County Community Library has made a newspaper database available in its digital archives. The collection comprises more than 214,000 pages from 25 local newspapers. Titles include *Willard Times* (1918-1980), *Erie County Reporter* (1880-1994), *Willard Times – Junction* (1988-2013), *The Reporter* (1965-1981), *Chicago Times* (1883-1918), and *Wakeman Independent Press* (1875-1901). The databases are keyword searchable and can also be browsed.

LancasterHistory Newspapers, Pennsylvania

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/research/digitized-newspapers>

---from *The Weekly Genealogist*, 14 Aug 2024

Lancaster County, seated in the city of Lancaster, is located in southeastern Pennsylvania. LancasterHistory has made a number of digitized newspapers available on its website. The collection comprises eight local newspapers. Titles include *The Columbia Lancaster Farmer* (1864-1884), *Lititz Newspaper Collection* (1877-1942), and *The New Holland Clarion* (1873-1950). Select a title from the newspaper database homepage, then click on the title link to begin. The databases are keyword searchable and can also be browsed.

Bureau of Land Management Records

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

This office holds 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.

Hoffman Heights Library Celebrates 60 years

Hoffman Heights Library, 1298 Peoria St., is the oldest library branch in Aurora, having existed since 1964. This facility was built in the early 1960s when Aurora grew to be Colorado's fourth largest city, and residents called for expanding the library system.

In 1961, Aurora voters passed a \$225,000 bond measure to fund a new library (images show library from 1966 and present day). With voter approval, the city began construction of the new branch, just south of the Fitzsimons Army Hospital and adjacent to the Hoffman Heights neighborhood. The new library was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$196,554 to serve the thriving Hoffman Heights community and about 250 Aurorans attended the public dedication in July 1964.

In 1982, the new Central Library opened on Alameda Avenue, while the Peoria Street facility became the North Branch Library. In 2000, Aurora voters approved a library facilities bond to renovate the entire building. When it reopened March 26, 2004, following reconstruction, the library was renamed Hoffman Heights Library to reflect the neighborhood in which it was located.

Hoffman Heights was also the library that was the first home for AGS. In 1981 our founding members worked with the library to acquire a small room for our AGS library. It had an adjoining conference room we used when we had speakers. The previous library room just happens to be where we'll be moving into shortly. Must be karma!

Openings on the AGS Board

With your election of Gail Arnert as President, she resigned as the Secretary for AGS. And with the resignation of Melanie Golden as Vice-President, Membership, we need two new officers on the AGS Board of Directors.

Step up! We need people with new/refreshing/or old good ideas on the Board! This would only add one more meeting each month to your current schedule. The Board meets the first Monday of the month, 1pm via Zoom. Of course, you'll be at the Membership meetings anyway.

Training will be provided by Gail and Melanie.

Below are the job descriptions.

Membership Vice-President shall:

- a. Assume the duties of the President in the absence or at the request of the President.
- b. Be in charge of meeting attendance and name tags for members and visitors.
- c. Assemble and verify the distribution of new-member packets.
- d. Prepare a yearly report for the end of the fiscal year to be maintained in Membership Vice-President's file. Maintain copies based on the Records Retention and Disposition Policy.
- e. Report delinquent dues to the Board of Directors by the February board meeting.
- f. Maintain a current membership list and provide the Board of Directors with a copy. Maintain copies based on the Records Retention and Disposition Policy.
- g. Maintain a file of meeting attendees. Maintain copies based on the Records Retention and Disposition Policy.

Secretary shall:

- a. Record the proceedings of the Society, both at general membership meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.
- b. Act as custodian of the records of the Society except those specifically assigned to others. Maintain copies based on the Records Retention and Disposition Policy.
- c. Maintain a current inventory of all legal documents, records and equipment belonging to the Society. Maintain copies based on the Records Retention and Disposition Policy.
- d. Check the mailbox (located at the Hoffman Heights branch in Aurora) at least once a week. Distribute the mail.
- e. Mail sympathy and other appropriate cards to members or their families.

Training will be provided by Melanie and Gail.



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: _____

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 Payment	\$ _____ 20.00__	(dues paid prior to January 1)
Student Membership	\$ _____ 22.00__	(copy of Student ID required)
Membership Dues	\$ _____ 25.00__	(90 or older no need to pay dues, but please fill out and return this form)
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 4th Tuesday of the month with the exception of November which is the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, which could make it a December meeting. All meetings begin at 1:00 pm. In-Person and Hybrid meetings are held at the Aurora Central Library in the Community Rooms, or via Zoom. In person meetings are open to the public.

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

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. Queries will be accepted for publication as space permits.



Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado
PO Box 31732
Aurora, CO 80041-0732