

# Larimer County Genealogical Society

[WWW.LCGSCO.ORG](http://WWW.LCGSCO.ORG)



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## COME SEE US !!

### WE WELCOME VISITORS

Larimer County Genealogical Society meets at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) at one of the Ft. Collins Libraries. Check the Calendar of Events or our website for location.

Dues are \$20.00 per year for an individual or \$30.00 per year for a family. Lifetime dues are also available.

The Newsletter is published 6 times a year. Please submit your articles and announcements to The Newsletter Committee at: [Newsletter\\_editor@lcgSCO.org](mailto:Newsletter_editor@lcgSCO.org) or in writing to:

Larimer County Genealogical Society P.O. Box 270737 Ft. Collins, CO 80527-0737

All submissions are subject to editing.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Details and registration for all events may be found on our website at:

[www.lcgSCO.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.lcgSCO.org/calendar-of-events)

Classes are Free unless noted otherwise. Some Require Advance Registration.

**April 4, Class: Intermediate Genealogy.** 10:15 am - 1:00 pm Council Tree Library, Fort Collins. Instructor Pat Johnson will demonstrate how and where you can successfully locate information beyond the Internet and basic records. The topics include: Land, Tax, Probate, Cemetery Records, Naturalization, Plus more! **Registration is required.**

**April 6, Class: Family Tree Maker Users Group.** 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Harmony Library, Fort Collins. Instructor Bob Larson will demonstrate how to research your ancestors using the many different internet genealogy databases, either free or paid subscriptions with the Web Search feature.

**April 16, Program: Planting Your Tree for the Next Generation!** 6:30pm - 8:30pm Council Tree Library, Fort Collins. Speaker Ellen Shindelman Kowitt will talk about "Planting Your Tree for the Next Generation" and how to share family history research.

**April 25, Resource Fair: Loveland Family History Fair.** 8:00 am — 3:30 pm Loveland Family History Center. The seminar will include a combination of several video classes from the 2015 RootsTech conference and live class presentations by experienced speakers from the local genealogy community. **Registration is required.**

**May 9, Class: Introduction to Genealogy.** 9:00 am — 12:15 pm Harmony Library, Fort Collins. New to genealogy? Genealogy instructor Carol Stetser will present a FREE three hour class for new and intermediate genealogists wanting to learn how to do research, types of records, where records are located, internet websites, recording your data, different types of genealogy software, local genealogy sources, various local societies to consider, and info on Larimer County Genealogical Society. **Registration is required.**

**May 21, Program: Tracing Your German Research.** 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Old Town Library, Fort Collins. Speaker John Mears will discuss finding the Germany hometowns of your German Ancestors using American and German records.

**May 23, Class: Introduction to Genealogy.** 9:15 am - 12:15 pm Clearview Library, Windsor. New to genealogy? Genealogy instructor Bob Larson will present a FREE three hour class for new and intermediate genealogists wanting to learn different methods on how to do research on your ancestors. **Registration is required.**

**Larimer County Genealogical Society Officers**

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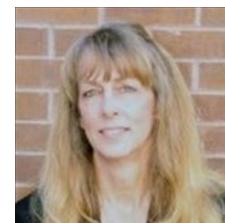
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Stacey Wallace Rehbein



Hello Everyone,

I hope you all have fun plans brewing for your summer genealogy trips and family reunions!

Speaking of plans brewing.... LCGS is planning a fantastic seminar for November 14th, 2015. I know it's a ways off but (as we soon found out), plans for a genealogy seminar are typically made a year or more in advance, especially if you want a national speaker. However, we have been given an extraordinary opportunity to raise money for two great causes and host a well known national speaker, that will help us accomplish this worthy goal.

This will be known as the 1st Larimer County Genealogical Society's "Conference for a Cause". We are combining the ability of our society to host a conference with 2 great charitable causes. The Windsor, Friday's Council Tree Chapter of the DAR's project to repair gravestones in our own Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins; beginning with Civil War Veteran's gravestones.

Our second great cause is to raise money for the "War of 1812 Preserve the Pension's Project". This is a national project that digitizes the pension papers of the soldiers from the War of 1812. We are proud to be a part of both these worthy causes. To help us with "Conference with a Cause", we are excited to announce our speaker. He has been a part of "WDYTYA" (Who Do You Think You Are?) and is a co-host for "The Genealogy Roadshow" on PBS. We will be welcoming D. Joshua Taylor as our presenter on November 14, 2015 at the Larimer County Conference Center at The Ranch. We hope you will join us for what will not only be a great learning experience from a highly sought after, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker; but will use most of your registration dollars to advance the 2 worthy projects I mentioned above.

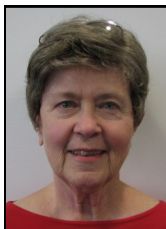
Hope to see you in November!

Stacey Rehbein

**FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWS**

By: Pat Johnson

**Family History Library Passport**



Tip: Pay a visit to your local Family History Center and reap the reward. The reward is the indefinite collections found there. Each FHC has a variety of subjects that reside there permanently on microfiche and microfilm. Many of these are one of a kind records. Ask to see the contents when you visit next time.

**Family History Center Contact info:**

**Fort Collins FHC** 226-5999  
 Tue and Wed: 10 am - 4 pm & 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
 Sat: 9 am to Noon

**Loveland FHC:** 669-6498  
 Tue and Wed: 9 am - 3 pm  
 Wed: 7pm - 9pm  
 Sat: 9 am to Noon

**Berthoud FHC:** 532-2155 (for appointment)

## Society News

### New Members & Visitors!

Our March meeting had 32 visitors! German ancestry and history appears to have great interest. We welcome the following new members to the LCGS since December. Our membership now totals 159, plus one institutional member.

Jacqueline Carter from Ft. Collins  
 Jan Hoffman from Berthoud  
 Vicki Carroll from Ft. Collins  
 Becky Douglas from Ft. Collins  
 Robert Fleming from Ft. Collins  
 Sharon Steenrod from Ft. Collins  
 Martha Stehman from Ft. Collins  
 Honey Terrill from Ft. Collins  
 Kay Gentry from Loveland  
 Cherrie Thornton from Ft. Collins  
 Cheryl Glanz from Ft. Collins  
 Linda and Frank Iannuzzi Jr from Windsor

We hope you find our society provides more information, training, services, friendship and fun than you expected.

Current members — look for new member name tags and please say “hello” and welcome them.

**Visitors!** Our records show 18 visitors in the January and February meetings. Let’s be sure we welcome them and invite them back. New members can be a great resource of new knowledge and friendship.

## CLICKING & SHARING

**Editor’s Note:** The links in this newsletter should all be live, however, you may need to sit straight up in your chair and clench your jaw to get them to work. Suggestion: first do one click on the link anywhere, then while holding down the control key, double click the linked phrase. OR, perhaps much easier depending on your computer, click on the link phrase anywhere, then right-click; in the drop-down window select “open hyperlink” or a similar phrase.



If you have a paper newsletter or other link problems, look for the main website address. Typing that in your browser should get you to the right area, then just look around for links to what you want. Example: FamilyTreeWebinars.com in bold in the article to the right on Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

**SHARE** your interesting stories and experiences with us. What interesting thing did you just discover?

## FREE LEGACY WEBINARS

### Free Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Millennia Corporation and FamilyTreeWebinars.com are pleased to announce registration is open for its 2015 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series.

Sign up for one or all of them and you’ll receive a reminder email both one day and one hour prior to the live event. Now you can sign up for multiple webinars at the same time by [clicking here](#) or visit [www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com) for more information.

#### April:

**Genealogy 101, Part 1 of 3** by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen. 4/1

**American Revolution Genealogy** by Beth Foulk. 4/8

**Hookers, Crooks, and Kooks—Aunt Merle Didn’t Run a Boarding House** by Jana Sloan Broglin. 4/10

**Ten Genealogical Lessons I Learned the Hard Way** by Warren Bittner. 4/15

**D-I-V-O-R-C-E-I** by Judy Russell. 4/22

**US Colored Troops Civil War Widows’ Pension Applications** by Bernice Alexander Bennett. 4/24

**Using Legacy with Specialized Studies** by Tessa Keough. 4/29

#### May:

**Genealogy 101, Part 2 of 3** by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen. 5/6

**After You’re Gone—Future-Proofing Your Genealogy Research (members-only)** by Thomas MacEntee. 5/8

**GenealogyBank—The Power of Finding Our Ancestor’s Stories** by Tom Kemp. 5/13

**Martha Benschura—Enemy Alien** by Judy Russell. 5/20

**Migration Patterns East of the Mississippi Prior to 1860** by Mary Hill. 5/27

#### **FamilyTreeWebinars.com memberships**

All live webinars are free, and their recordings are free to watch for the next 7 days. If you missed a previous webinar you can have access to the entire archives (now more than 200 hours) and instructors' handouts (more than 500 pages) through a monthly or annual webinar membership. [Click here](#) for more information or to subscribe.

### “Secretary Hand”

You have seen “secretary hand” at one time or another, and it likely includes your ancestral family name. Read this newsletter to learn why it’s important.



## PALEOGRAPHY:

(Used by permission of The Center for Family History & Genealogy and Department of History, Brigham Young University; slightly edited.)

The following is taken from two webpages of an online tutorial of BYU found at <https://script.byu.edu/Pages/choices.aspx>. The English Script portion below is found at a link at the bottom of the page by clicking on the word "English." Similar script history is found by clicking on the other words, e.g. German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. These links are not highlighted. It is presumed additional education material is available upon request, with possible fees.

Writing is the common demarcation between what scholars consider "historical" and "pre-historical." Writing in many ways gives us our history – our story about the past – without it we can still piece together events from the past, but the stories and voices of the past are silent without words. It is writing that preserves those words. The difficulty for researchers is that writing has undergone numerous changes since its first inception some 4500-5500 years ago. Paleography is the study and interpretation of ancient or old handwriting and manuscripts. It is part art, part science, part puzzle-solving, and part decoding.

If you conduct research in documents produced since 1850, many of the letter forms will be familiar, if not precisely like today's letter forms. But as you move back in time, the letters grow increasingly foreign, even in your native language. It is at this point that you need the skills of a paleographer. Learning to read older scripts and to analyze the manuscripts written in those scripts are the two central skills of paleography. Everyone who undertakes research of the past – whether it is historical, genealogical, or literary – relies on the skills of paleography. Learning this skill is essential to enriching your understanding and interpretation of the past.

The tutorials and materials gathered here (<https://script.byu.edu/Pages/choices.aspx>) are meant to help a variety of people – students, researchers, historians, genealogists, and indexers – learn more about old scripts and how to make use of that knowledge to analyze and interpret the past. The concentration is on western European scripts, particularly those in use between 1500 and 1800. There is general introductory material about the history of writing and the de-



velopment of different scripts (or hands) as well as extensive, and interactive, language-specific materials.

### ENGLISH SCRIPT

Between 1500 and 1800 Britain and Ireland used a variety of scripts—often mixing forms from an older script with newer innovations. While much material written after 1750 is decipherable without specialized training, some older, difficult, forms of writing persisted in particular record types until the 1850s. The dominant script from the early modern period (1500-1700) in England, Wales, Ireland, and colonial America was the secretary hand. Secretary hand was also used in Scotland, though Scots writers developed a few unique letterforms and strokes not found in other places within Britain. This tutorial concentrates on secretary hand, but begins with more modern hands to provide paleographic practice; it also introduces older scripts used between the middle ages and the sixteenth century.

While English is the dominant language in all early modern British, Irish, and American sources, certain documents might be in other languages, or contain portions in other languages. Latin was the official ecclesiastical-legal language in England until 1733 and Latin phrases lingered in British and Irish Documents until the eighteenth century. Scottish documents might also contain words or phrases in Scots. Documents from the Celtic areas (Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man) might have Gaelic words or Gaelic-based phonetic spellings and documents from the Channel Islands will contain French. ©2015 The Center for Family History & Genealogy and Department of History

## Colorado First Families Recognition Program

As genealogists, we're proud of where we came from and the stories of our ancestors' travels, lives, and histories. And we're proud of our ancestors' contributions to the places in which they settled and raised their families.

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, commonly known as the Council, administers the First Families of Colorado program whereby descendants of Colorado pioneer families receive certificates of lineage honoring their Colorado heritage. The certificates are handsome, very suitable for framing (I'm sure most of them are), and memorialize Colorado early families.

The First Families of Colorado Recognition Program has been in place since 1983, and so far, hundreds of descendants have submitted proofs of lineage to Colorado ancestors and received certificates. The people who apply for and receive the certificates often include their children and grandchildren, giving proof of a personal connection to Colorado. You can see the names of these descendants and their pioneer connections at: <http://www.cocouncil.org/documents/PioneerList.pdf>.

There are three categories of recognition:

**First Family**, whereby an ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, the land area of what is now Colorado, before 28 February, 1861.

**Territorial Family**, whereby an ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, a territory that is now Colorado, between 28 February 1861 and 1 August 1876.

**Centennial Family**, whereby an ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, Colorado at least 100 years prior to the date of Centennial Family application.

You may learn more about the First Families program at: <http://www.cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html>

Applicants need not be current residents of Colorado. Indeed, many descendants do not reside in Colorado, but proudly remember their Colorado heritage.

Applicants may submit documentation tracing their ancestors' activities and existence in Colorado by way of census records, church records, and birth, marriage and death records.

For an application, visit <http://cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html>.

Submitted by Roberta "Bobbi" King

Treasurer, Council

### Research Tip

*by HRGS President Megan Koepsell*

I have two "backdoor" tips to find records in Family Search. The first is to look under the "Browse All Published Collections" instead of immediately inserting names into the search engine. When the list of collections comes up, you can scroll through to find collections by country or state. It enables you to narrow your search to find relatives in specific records. I was not having any luck finding a whole group of relatives in the main search engine in Family Search, but when I went in through the collections, I found a link to probate records that were not coming up in the main engine. I found records for several ancestors that I was able to order from the county courthouse. Because of this, I found health histories, death information for several relatives, and a whole branch of family I would never have known existed had I not found the probate records in the list of collections.

For the second tip, when you find a birth, marriage, or death record for a family member in Family Search, click on the blue GS Film Number at the bottom of the page. It will bring up all of the other records in the same set of records. When I did this the first time while looking at marriage records, I found the names of my 3rd-great-grandparents that I hadn't known, along with the names of two additional children of theirs that I had also not known existed. This is now my favorite trick since I have found quite a few previously unknown relatives.

(Reprinted from the Highlands Ranch Genealogy Society Newsletter with Author's/President's permission.)

## Board Member BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - Paul A. Opler

**Paul A. Opler** was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan on August 3, 1938. His parents were Pauline Elizabeth Schneirla Opler and Ascher Weinstein Opler. Paul moved with his parents to Detroit, Michigan, and then to Vacaville, California in October 1944. At the end of WWII they moved to Pleasant Hill, California where Paul graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1956. Paul attended the University of California and graduated in 1960. He was drafted in the Army in October 1961 and was stationed in New York City for two years. Paul and wife Sandra Sue Segler Opler lived in Manhattan



where son Timothy was born in April 1963. Paul, Sandra, and Timothy returned to California in September 1963 where Paul attended graduate school at San Jose State University. On completing his Masters in Biology, just after son David Christian was born, the young family returned to Berkeley where Paul again attended the University of California completing his doctorate in Entomology in 1970. About this time Paul and his family moved to Costa Rica where Paul was a research associate for the Association for Tropical Studies. Paul worked in tropical forests studying the more than 2000 species of tropical plants and their reproduction.

Paul was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October 1974, and the family moved to northern Virginia as Paul was assigned to the Office of Endangered Species in Washington, D.C. Soon Paul was selected to head the Biological Support Branch which was responsible for maintaining the lists of Threatened and Endangered Species. Paul and Sandra along with adopted daughter Laura Maria transferred to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1983 where Paul was in charge of the Fish and Wildlife Service's research editorial and publication program until his retirement in December, 1997; during the last few years the group had been transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division. His last responsibility was as scientific editor for a two-

volume work *Status and Trends of our Nation's Biological Resources*.

Paul's wife Sandra passed away in February 1992; a cenotaph bench in her memory is located in Grandview Cemetery.

Paul has been married to Eva Maria Lang Buckner-Opler since 1997; they live east of Loveland near Boyd Lake. On his retirement Paul received a special appointment as professor in the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences. He works in the Gillette Arthropod Biodiversity Museum in Laurel Hall and has been major advisor

for five successful graduates.

On a western national park trip in October 2010 with her brother Hans and wife Isabella, they visited Temple Square in Salt Lake City. There, Paul discovered the Mormon Family Research Center where one of the sisters introduced him to genealogical software and how to research family trees. Ever since Paul has been an avid student of genealogy and has tried to keep track of his family in the broadest possible sense. Paul uses Family-Tree-maker in conjunction with Ancestry.com. He has also submitted his own DNA to Family Tree DNA, Ancestry DNA, and 23-and-me. His ancestry is a combination of German-Irish Protestant and German-eastern European Jewish.

*Paul Opler*



## Board Member BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - Bruce Harshberger

**Bruce Harshberger**, LCGS Treasurer, b. 1943 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is married to **Janet Baumann**, from Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Bruce is "dual-ethnic." His mother was Canadian from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She journeyed to St. Paul for work, while her siblings remained in Canada.

About 1971 Bruce began his roots search. They go to Mandan, ND; Brainerd, MN; McAlisterville, PA; Sioux Rapids, IA (Mills); Winnipeg (Frehs), Montreal, England (Clarke), Scotland (McAlister), and Switzerland (Harshberger).

A sad story is the tragic, accidental 1890 shooting of his great-grandfather in Mandan by a revolver taken off the Little Big Horn battlefield. Bruce's great-grandfather had been at a public meeting discussing the American Indian 1890 Ghost Dances. His grandmother (2 months old) was orphaned when her mother died soon after.

Another story... for many years it was a mystery, is why great-grandpa and great-grandma Harshberger had married twice. Looking through the Library of Congress' *Chronicling America* online collection of old newspapers, he discovered why! Great-grandpa had been sent to the Minnesota State Prison for embezzlement! They divorced. Later after reconciliation and re-marriage they went on to live in Oregon.

There were many childhood trips to Winnipeg from St. Paul. Bruce began researching his ancestry, both American and Canadian, and the history of each country. Later he found that his father (Clarke) had Canadian roots as well... going back to Montreal, Quebec in the 1860s and England before that. Along the way he observed how little Americans know about Canadians, and how broadening it would be for Americans' perspectives.

McAlisterville, PA is where his great-great-grandfather



Harshberger had married Rachel McAlister. Thus the Scot ancestry. We hope to visit there soon.

Raised in St. Paul, Bruce attended St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota for a B.A. (1965). There he met Janet (1967) and they worked at a summer church canoeing camp on the Minnesota-Ontario border. Bruce had inherited from his father a love of outdoors and canoeing, so the camp was a natural.

He attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, receiving his M.Div. degree (1969). A "Call" came to Bawlf, Alberta, Canada, having already served a one-year internship at Hughenden, Alberta. A daughter Jennifer was born to Bruce and Janet... a \$5 cost under Alberta Government Health Care Insurance!

Next came Minnesota and Wisconsin... to be closer to grandparents. Daughter Nicole arrived in 1972. It was there, where their children grew up. Minnesota and Wisconsin have abundant lakes, but no mountains. So, a favorite vacation destination was the West and Colorado. Both daughters moved to Colorado, so when retirement came along, Bruce and Janet moved and settled in Loveland.

Activities today: Children and grandchildren, LCGS, church, researching ancestry, outdoors, photography, travel, reading, theology book study group, Osher (CSU), and Road Scholar, politics, health care advocacy, and Loveland Performing Arts Association Board,

—Bruce Harshberger, 10 Feb 2015

THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS & MILITARY WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY!!



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Save the Date | Nov. 14, 2015  
Loveland, Colorado

## Conference for a Cause

Benefitting the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions  
and Friday's Council Tree Chapter, NSDAR  
Historic Marker Project at Grandview Cemetery

Featuring

D. Joshua Taylor

Hosted by the Larimer County Genealogy Society  
[www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org)

