



Larimer County Genealogical Society

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COME SEE US !! WE WELCOME VISITORS

The Larimer County Genealogical Society meets at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month (*no meeting in December*) at the Good Samaritan Society, 508 W. Trilby Rd., Ft. Collins, CO. 80525

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

Please submit your articles to the editor at:

newsletter_editor@lcgsc.org

or in writing to:

Larimer County
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 270737
Fort Collins, CO 80527

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

www.lcgsc.org/calendar-of-events

or watch your e-mail for periodic notifications.



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You can send an inquiry by regular mail to:
Larimer County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 270737
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-0737

Family History Center Contact Information

Fort Collins FHC: 970-226-5999
 Tuesdays: 10 am-4 pm then 6:30-9:30
 Wednesdays: 10 am-4 pm
 Saturdays: 9am to noon
 600 Swallow Rd Fort Collins

Loveland FHC: 970-669-6498
 Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 9am-3pm
 Wednesdays: 7pm-9pm
 Saturdays: 9am to noon
 3800 Mountain Lion Dr Loveland

Berthoud FHC: 970-217-3157
 550 Spartan Dr
By appointment. only

President's Message

R. Glenn York, president@lcgsc.org

I had the opportunity to attend the RootsTech2019 conference February 27th through March 2th In Salt Lake City. This is the biggest family history conference in the world. This year they added a fourth full day. Some statistics they released about the conference are:

• Rootstech registrations	15,156
• Family Discovery Day* registrations	23,552
• Total live stream views	80,000
• FamilySearch mobile downloads	30,000
• Different countries represented	38
• Number of states represented	50

** Family Discovery Day is the final Saturday when Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Days Saints sponsors special sessions for church members and the conference exhibit hall is open to the church members including children.*

RootsTech had over 300 educational sessions and 200 vendors in the exhibit hall. They offered some optional sessions at 8 AM each morning with regular sessions running from 9 AM to 5 PM daily. Some of the most popular sessions were in rooms with up to 3,500 seats. Most session rooms held between 200 and 500 people. In past years several sessions filled up and people could not get into their first choice. This year the only session I was unable to get into as one of the 8 AM sessions; I was running late, and it was full when I arrived about 8:10. I had no problem going to my second-choice session this period.

RootsTech made several improvements to the conference this year. In the past there were long lines to pick up conference materials. Many people waited in lines over an hour to pick up their materials. This year they mailed badges to everyone that preregistered. When I arrived at the convention center, they handed me a lanyard with a badge holder and directed me to a large supply of conference bags, and it was on my way in about 2 minutes.

The educational sessions were presented by many of the top national speakers and were all top-quality presentations. In the exhibit hall the vendors had many of their top experts available. RootsTech is always a good opportunity to ask questions and discuss product enhancements with the people who can provide answers or take your suggestions to project management teams.

RootsTech can be overwhelming. There are big crowds, and it is a big conference center. It can take several minutes to get from one session to the next. Sessions are scheduled with 30 minutes between so there is adequate time to get to the next session.

You also need to plan on time in the exhibit hall. Many vendors are demonstrating their latest products and selling them at a discount

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All the major genealogy businesses make some of their major announcements at RootsTech. Some of the most notable announcements were:

- **Ancestry:** Made several changes to their DNA tools including ThruLines, new tagging options, and new sorting and filtering options for your match list.
- **MyHeritage:** Announced their new “autoclustering” tool and their “Theory of Family Relativity”. They also announced they were reopening their DNAQuest program that offers free DNA tests to adoptees and birth parents to help them reconnect.
- **FamilySearch:** Announced a 2-Million-dollar donation to the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina.
- **Find My Past and Living DNA:** Re-announced their partnership to bring Find My Past familytrees and LivingDNA test results together.

One of the fun things done at RootsTech is FamilySearch modifies their mobile app. One of the extras that is normally their “Relatives around me” will try to find relatives within about 100 yards if they are also using the app. During RootsTech they changed the name to “Relatives at RootsTech” and expand the distance to about half a mile. Once you opt into the application it stays active all week. Every time I looked at the app, it indicated that I was related to over half of the other people that had opted into the tool. By Saturday afternoon I had over 5,000 relatives at RootsTech. On Tuesday afternoon when I picked up my conference materials it showed several people as far as 10th cousins, but by Saturday it only showed 7th cousins. Saturday night after the conference all that information when away, and the app when back to normal.

Using the “Relatives at RootsTech” I connected with three 4th and 5th cousins through one of my lines. This line has some conflicting information about our immigrant ancestor. We met one evening and discussed our research and agreed to establish a Facebook group to share information so we can collaborate to resolve some of these conflicts and try to identify our Immigrant ancestor’s home land.

Many sessions from the conference were recorded and are available to watch from home. Most are FREE, but they are also offering a chance to purchase access to a group of sessions. See www.rootstech.org for more details.

This was my fourth year to attend, and it is always one of the best weeks of the year. The changes this year made it even better. RootsTech will have a conference in London this fall. I don’t think I will make that one, but I am already looking forward to RootsTech2020 in Salt Lake City next February.



RootsTech bird’s-eye view.



Glenn York and Paul Woodbury at RootsTech2019

Glenn

Scientists Are aAIM-ing to Identify Your Ancestors

By Staff, University of Sheffield, January 14, 2019

Scientists at the University of Sheffield studying ancient DNA have created a tool allowing them to more accurately identify ancient Eurasian populations, which can be used to test an individual's similarity to ancient people who once roamed the earth.

Currently the study of ancient DNA requires a lot of information to classify a skeleton to a population or find its biogeographical origins.

Now scientists have defined a new concept called Ancient Ancestry Informative Markers (aAIMs) - a group of mutations that are sufficiently informative to identify and classify ancient populations.

The research, led by Dr Eran Elhaik, from the University of Sheffield's Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, saw the identification of a small group of aAIMs that can be used to classify skeletons to ancient populations.

Dr Elhaik said: "We developed a new method that finds aAIMs efficiently and have proved that it is accurate."AIMs (Ancestry Informative Markers) have a long history in science and have been employed for the past decade by health and forensic experts.

But Dr Elhaik said that when his team applied traditional AIMs-finding tools to ancient DNA data, they were disappointed with their low accuracy.

"Ancient populations are much more diverse than modern ones," he said. "Their diversity was reduced over the years following events such as the Neolithic revolution and the Black Death.

"Although we have many more people today they are all far more similar to each other than ancient people. In addition, the ancient data themselves are problematic due to the large amount of degraded DNA."

To overcome these challenges, Dr Elhaik developed a specialised tool that identifies aAIMs by combining traditional methodology with a novel one that takes into account a mixture.

"Ancient genomes typically consist of hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions of markers. We demonstrated that only 13,000 markers are needed to make accurate population classifications for ancient genomes and while the field of ancient forensics does not exist yet, these aAIMs can help us get much closer to ancient people."

He added: "Until now you couldn't test people for ancient DNA ancestry because commercial microarrays, such as the ones used for genetic genealogy, don't have a lot of markers relevant for paleogenomics - people could not study their primeval origins.

"This finding of aAIMs is like finding the fingerprints of ancient people. It allows testing of a small number of markers - that can be found in a commonly available array - and you can ask what part of your genome is from Roman Britons or Viking, or Chumash Indians, or ancient Israelites, etc.

Read the rest here:

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/genomics/news/scientists-are-aaim-ing-to-identify-your-ancestors-313902>



Upcoming LCGS Programs—*Plan your Summer!*

April 18, 2019 - *Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research* **Delbert Ritchhart**. Newspapers are a great resource for researching one's ancestors and, unfortunately, they are frequently overlooked by genealogists. This presentation will provide an overview of the types of information that can be obtained from historic newspapers, the primary web sites for doing newspaper research, foreign language newspaper sources and tips on how to improve your chances for success. The speaker will also discuss a couple of his successes and the methods he used to discover the information.

Del Ritchhart recently moved to Windsor from San Diego and joined our society. He began researching his family history in 1994. He has served in leadership positions in several San Diego genealogical organizations, and has made over 100 presentations to numerous groups in the Southern California area. He published, "*Breathing Life Into My Family Ancestors*" in 2011 and plans to publish a second book in 2019.

May 16, 2019 - *Family History - Color Commentary* **Susi Hickman**

June 20, 2019 *Genealogy Educational Opportunities* **Glenn York** This presentation will explore the range of learning opportunities available to advance your genealogical skills and knowledge. We will discuss free and low cost opportunities that require little or no travel. We will also discuss the National conferences and Genealogical Institutes.

Glenn York is the current president of the Larimer County Genealogical Society, and also the leader of the DNA Study Group. He has been doing genealogy since 1983. His current focus is on genetic genealogy.

July 18, 2019 *Location is the Key to Finding Your Ancestors* **Carol Cooke Darrow**. Most genealogy records are created at the county level so it's vital that you learn as much as possible about the county boundaries, history, population, geography, churches, crops, and occupations of your ancestor's hometown. When you become an expert on that location, you will find the records you're looking for.

Carol Cooke Darrow has been a Certified Genealogist since 2005. She currently volunteers at the downtown Denver Public Library on Tuesday mornings and she is at the Broomfield location of the National Archives on Thursdays from 9 am - 4 pm. She is available to help you work through your brick wall problems. She has been a popular speaker for our society for several years.

August 15, 2019 - *WikiTree* **Eowyn Langholf**

Sept. 19, 2019 - *How To Plan Your Digital Afterlife* **Julie Potter Miller**. Your digital presence has grown at a rapid speed. After you are gone, what will happen to your electronic information and photos? Learn how to take control of your digital afterlife.

Julie Miller, CG, CGL, FNGS is a full-time professional researcher, speaker, and writer who lives in Broomfield. Her articles have appeared in the NGSQ and NGS Magazine. Julie is a member of the NGS conference committee, served as conference chair of the 2010 and 2012 NGS conferences. She is a fellow of the National Genealogical Society. Julie has been a volunteer at NARA-Denver for twenty years.

The complete list may be found in the February Newsletter

Beginner Tips: Where to Look for Great Ancestor Stories

By Diane Haddad, Family Tree Magazine, May 26, 2018

One of my favorite aspects of genealogy is finding a good story. Maybe an ancestor took part in an historical event, clawed his way to economic success, survived an arduous migration or even committed a crime. The kinds of things you might see on an episode of [“Who Do You Think You Are?”](#)

If you’re getting started in genealogy, you might think there’s no excitement in your family tree—but there probably is if you look for it. These are some of the best family story sources (and I’ll tell you where they’ve led me to juicy family history details):

- **Newspapers:** Probably like many of you, I never thought my family was particularly newsworthy. But I’ve found news items including a brief mention of a small kitchen fire in my third-great-grandfather’s home, reports on [my Federal League baseball player relative’s](#) performance on the field, a very complimentary profile of my grandfather after his graduation from an orphanage, and a sordid tale of another third-great-grandfather’s stabbing during a fight over a woman (one day I’ll blog about that guy). Digitized newspaper sites include the free [Chronicling America](#) and subscription-based [GenealogyBank](#) and [Newspapers.com](#). Visit your library or state archive to scroll local papers on microfilm.
- **Court records:** Though they aren’t always easy to access—most aren’t online, and they’re not always indexed—court records are often full of information. For example, I’ve discovered two ancestral divorce cases ([one granted](#); [one dismissed](#)) with family members’ names, marriage dates and places, and what went awry in the couples’ relationships. FamilySearch has many [microfilmed court records](#), and [some counties’ records are digitized on the free FamilySearch.org](#). You can learn more about courthouse research with our [Courthouse Research Premium Collection](#).
- **Military pension applications:** I haven’t yet had the pleasure of paging through a family member’s military pension papers, but in our [“What’s in a Civil War Pension File?” video class](#), military records expert Diana Crisman Smith explains how you could find correspondence about military service, documentation of marriage, written testimony about wounds received, photos and more. Subscription site [Ancestry.com](#) and [FamilySearch.org](#) have indexes and some record images for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and Civil War pensions. Some of the record images are on Ancestry.com’s sister site [Fold3](#), which requires an additional subscription (your library or local [FamilySearch Center](#) may offer free use of Ancestry.com and Fold3).
- **Family papers:** Diaries, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, photos, baby books and other passed-down items from trunks, closets and attics hold “everyday life” details and stories you won’t find anywhere else. Go through your house (and your relatives’ houses, if they’ll let you) for these home sources and examine them for clues. Once your relatives start to see you as “the family historian,” these types of items—which many people don’t necessarily want to store, but don’t want to throw out either—may very well come knocking on your door. Advice for digitally archiving and preserving these sources is in the book [How To Archive Family Keepsakes](#) by Denise Levenick.

Read the rest here:

https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/genealogy_records/newspapers/beginner-genealogy-tips-where-to-look-for-great-ancestor-stories/



Teaching kids about family history helps increase resilience

By Staff, EveryDay Strong, Feb 23, 2019 (Many thanks to Bruce Harshberger for sending this on!)

Resilience, or the ability to overcome challenges in life, is a trait many parents hope their children will develop. Resilient children are more likely to have good emotional and mental health.

Research has shown that children who know more about their families and family history are more resilient and tend to do better when facing challenges in life. This may be because seeing patterns of overcoming failures and surviving hard times can help children recognize that people can recover and triumph, despite hardships. One of the best things families can do is develop a strong family narrative.

In one study from Emory University, researchers developed a scale involving 20 questions that measured children's knowledge about their family history. Questions included, "Do you know where your grandparents grew up?" and "Do you know where your parents met?" Researchers also looked at family's dinner-time conversations and had the children take several psychological tests. Results showed that the more that children knew about their families, the higher their self-esteem and sense of control over their lives.

The questions proved to be a good predictor of children's emotional health and happiness. The questions also showed that children who were informed of their family history were more resilient and handled stress better than those who were not informed. Lastly, children who were able to answer more questions showed greater family unity, less anxiety and less behavioral problems.

Why is this? Researchers speculated that children who know about their own family history have a stronger feeling of being part of something bigger than themselves. Children who knew family history felt part of a larger family.

Family therapist Stefan Walters stated, "We all feel stronger if we are part of a tapestry. One thread alone is weak, but, woven into something larger, surrounded by other threads, is more difficult to unravel."

Learning about family history may also help children become more compassionate, as they learn the struggles and challenges ancestors were able to overcome. Additionally, knowing stories about past family members help children understand where they've come from and develop their own identity.

A researcher from the study stated, "Hearing these stories gave the children a sense of their history and a strong 'intergenerational self.' Even if they were only nine, their identity stretched back 100 years, giving them connection, strength and resilience."

All people have a basic human need for connection and belonging, and people who have basic human needs that are met are more resilient. In addition to teaching your children about their ancestors, consider strengthening existing family relationships. One of the best ways to have joy and meaning in life is to ensure that you have supportive relationships with others. Invest time and effort into strengthening the relationships in your life. Families are a great place to help children learn to and develop strong connections and supportive relationships.

Here are some ideas to help strengthen relationships within your family:

Read the rest here:

https://www.heraldextra.com/news/community/charities/everyday-strong-teaching-kids-about-family-history-helps-increase-resilience/article_dbd0ef09-7570-5848-853a-87a2af730729.html

RECRUIT!

The Larimer County Genealogical Society cannot exist without members. Therefore, it is up to you to bring in new members. We all know someone who wishes that they could learn more about their ancestors, but just doesn't know how to go about doing the research. Invite them to a meeting! Give them a copy of the LCGS Newsletter. Help them get started. *You'll be glad you did.*



Save the Date!

LCGS's 5th Annual

2019 Conference For A Cause

with Judy G. Russell (a.k.a., [The Legal Genealogist](#))

A genealogist with a law degree, *The Legal Genealogist*, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, is a lecturer, educator and writer.

September 28, 2019 in Loveland, CO

Information and Registration soon at LCGSCO.ORG

We are the chosen. In each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe.