

# COLORADO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Meeting Locally, Researching Globally

Volume 34, No. 4

## Dr. David McDonald Scheduled to Speak at CGS Spring Seminar

The Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG<sup>SM</sup> will be the featured speaker at the Colorado Genealogical Society Annual Spring Seminar scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2011. Dr. McDonald will speak on Friday, March 18, at the regular CGS program meeting on "Kith & Kin in High Places: Genealogy and the White House," exploring the origins of the rogues, patriots, and heroes who have served in the White House and whose families represent the vivid tapestry of the American experience. The Friday night meeting at Christ the King Lutheran Church is a free event.

On Saturday, March 19, Dr. McDonald will present four lectures at the all-day seminar to be held at the Lower Level Conference Center of the Downtown Denver Public Library. There is a \$30 materials fee per person for the all-day seminar on March 19.

Presentations at the seminar will include:

### **Lutherpalians & Presbyterians: Whatever Became of Grandma's Church?**

The twentieth century saw an unprecedented number of denominational mergers between various forms of the Protestant tradition. A researcher may know where Grandma *went* to church, but can that church or its parent denomination be found *now*? We'll look at clues a researcher may find in family behavior and attitude, ethnic origins and geographic indicators which can help a genealogist find modern-day record repositories and archives, as well as congregations, which can hold genealogical treasure and family lore.

### **Polly's Family: Transcontinental Migration & Tips for Tracking Your Forebears**

Using the story of Polly Putnam Betts, a Vermont farm girl who died aged 93 in Iowa, we'll examine the kind of migration that brought settlers across the Great Plains and onto the West Coast throughout the course of the nineteenth century. Military files, land records, family bibles, correspondence, vital records, and cemeteries are all interwoven in this tale of Manifest Destiny.



An avid genealogist since 1977, Dave McDonald is President of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®, and a frequent lecturer at national, regional, state and local genealogical societies. Board-certified since 2004, Dave teaches collegiate-level courses in beginning research methods, genealogical foundations, and British research strategies. He serves on the National Genealogical Society's

Board of Directors, and that of the International Society for British Genealogy & Family History. He is the Principal of Old Northwest Research, LLC, a genealogical practice focusing on research in the Midwest and Great Plains.

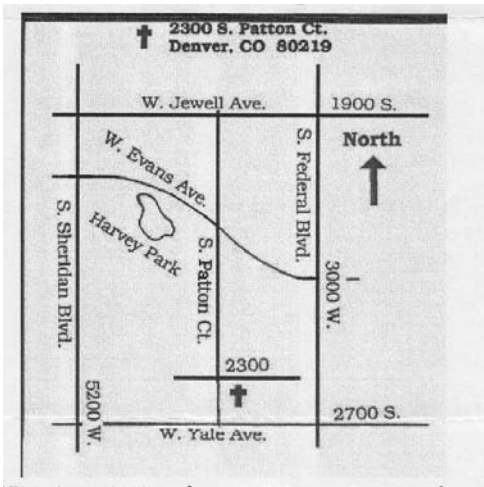
Beyond the genealogical world, Dave serves as a pastor in the United Church of Christ. He's compiled several family genealogies as well as the parish registers of two sets of church registers. He's a former editor of the *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter*, a frequent contributor to state society journals, and has written for the *NGS Magazine* and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He'll be speaking at both the NGS Family History Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, in May; and at the FGS Conference in September at Springfield, Illinois.

### **More Than Military Records at the National Archives**

Any researcher with more than a little exposure to research knows that the National Archives holds a treasure-trove of family data in the census records, military pensions and land office records to be found at NARA in Washington. More experienced researchers are aware of the regional archives located in major cities throughout the United States holding items of regional interest. We'll examine what *else* can be found with a little ingenuity, careful attention and diligent sleuthing.

### **Enough Already! Start Writing!—Finding the Forest Amidst All These Trees**

When should a genealogist STOP researching? When is enough, enough? How can a researcher recognize when the materials go beyond thorough, and have moved to the arcane? What can one do to evaluate the research others have conducted on our families of interest? We must evaluate our materials and construct detailed, well-written summaries that unlock the hidden secrets buried in years of research.



## Meeting Location

**Christ the King Lutheran Church,  
2300 S. Patton Court, Denver**

The Colorado Genealogical Society holds its monthly meetings on the third Friday evening of each month (except December, July and August) at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct., in Denver. Patton Court is between W. Jewell, W. Yale, South Sheridan and South Federal near Harvey Park.

COLORADO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Carol Darrow, CG, Editor  
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CGS welcomes your input. Address items of interest, news, and tips and tricks for the Colorado genealogical community to the editor at Cdarrow944@yahoo.com or call (303) 287-6063.

## CGS Website



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

## Upcoming CGS Programs and Classes

- Monday, Nov. 1, 2010: CGS Board Meeting, 6-8 pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,** Denver Public Library. CGS members welcome to attend.
- Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010: Aches & Pains Tour, 10 am – noon.** Wheat Ridge Historic Park, 4610 Robb St., Wheat Ridge, 10 – 11:30 am. \$1/person. Contact Karen Shuman at 720-270-4387 or Lou-Jean Rehn at 303-333-2492.
- Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010: CGS Beginning Genealogy Class**  
**Downtown Denver Public Library, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gates Room, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm** Learn how to get started in genealogy.
- Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010: Write NOW! writing group meeting.** Downtown Denver Public Library, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.
- Friday, Nov. 19, 2010: CGS Program Meeting, 7 pm – 9 pm. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct.** Speaker: Dennis Gallagher, “Denver Under the Shadow of the KKK.”
- Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010: CGS Special Interest Class, 10 am – noon.** “Newspaper Research and Sources,” presented by Lou-Jean Rehn, CG.
- TBA: Aches & Pains Tour of the Governor’s Mansion at Christmas.**
- Monday, Dec. 6, 2010: CGS Board Meeting, 6-8 pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,** Denver Public Library. CGS members welcome to attend.

### NOTE NEW AFTERNOON HOURS FOR CLASSES!!

- Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010: CGS Beginning Genealogy Class**  
**Downtown Denver Public Library, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gates Room, 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm** Learn how to get started in genealogy.
- Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010: Write NOW! writing group meeting.**  
**Downtown Denver Public Library, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.**  
**No Program Meeting or Special Interest Class in December.**

\* \* \* Happy Holidays \* \* \*

- Monday, Jan. 3, 2011: CGS Board Meeting, 6-8 pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,** Denver Public Library. CGS members welcome to attend.
- Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011: Aches & Pains Tour, 10 am – noon.** J&B Button Factory. Contact Karen Shuman at 720-270-4387 or Lou-Jean Rehn at 303-333-2492
- Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011: CGS Beginning Genealogy Class**  
**Downtown Denver Public Library, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gates Room, 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm.** Learn how to get started in genealogy.
- Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011: Write NOW! writing group meeting.**  
**Downtown Denver Public Library, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.**
- Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011: CGS Special Interest Class, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.** “Introduction to the new Family Search Online,” presented by Barbara Price.
- Friday, Jan. 21, 2011: CGS Program Meeting, 7 pm – 9 pm. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct.**

### SAVE THE DATE:

- Friday, March 18, 2011, CGS Program Meeting, 7 pm – 9 pm.** Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct. CGS Spring Seminar speaker Dr. David McDonald.
- Saturday, March 19, 2011, CGS Spring Seminar 2011, 9 am – 4 pm,** Lower Level Conference Center, Downtown Denver Public Library, featuring Dr. David McDonald. Registration and materials fee: \$30.

## DPL to Close on Saturday Mornings Starting Dec. 4

Starting on December 4, the downtown Denver Public Library will open on Saturdays at 1 pm and close at 5 pm due to budget cuts. This change will impact CGS classes that have been held on Saturday mornings.

Starting in December, the Beginning Genealogy will be held on the second Saturday of the month from 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm. Special Interest Genealogy classes starting in January will be held on the third Saturday of the month from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

## Honorary Life Membership Awarded to Donna Porter

The Board of the Colorado Genealogical Society has awarded Honorary Life Membership to Donna Porter, a CGS member since 1966 and president of CGS from 1968-1970. Donna is responsible for expanding the society to a larger community. She also started beginning genealogy classes in Denver.

## In Case of Snow

In the event of snow on the day of a scheduled CGS meeting, check your email for a notification of cancellation. CGS will make personal phone calls to members who do not have an email address registered with the Membership Chair. We will also try to post the cancellation on local television stations although you should know that many cancellations are not on the crawl and you must go online to access the complete list on the website of the television station. We will also try to get the notice posted on the CGS website at [www.cogensoc.us](http://www.cogensoc.us).

If you'd like to be notified via e-mail of upcoming CGS programs and activities, send your email address to Membership Chair Sandy Ronayne at [sandyronayne@comcast.net](mailto:sandyronayne@comcast.net). Sandy will be happy to add you to the list.

## CGS Board in Action

The Board of Directors of the Colorado Genealogical Society has taken the following actions since August 2010:

- Renewed society insurance that provides coverage for bodily injury and property damage that covers our meeting place as well as for outside events such as Aches & Pains tours and the Annual Seminar. We also renewed directors' and officers' liability insurance.
- Discussed revising specific financial procedures in the CGS Procedures Manual to include the Society secretary as a third signer on our bank accounts.

- Requested an audit of the 2009-10 financial records of the society. Gary Williams completed the audit.

If you have any issue or concern to bring before the board, please notify President Carol Darrow at [cdarrow944@yahoo.com](mailto:cdarrow944@yahoo.com) or attend any board meeting held the first Monday each month at DPL from 6-8 pm.

## Welcome New Members!

New CGS members welcomed in September 2010:

- ❖ Roland and Cheryl Floberg
- ❖ Sue and Charles Horner
- ❖ Carolyn Myers

## FGS Fund to Support Digitization of War of 1812 Pension Applications

With the approaching bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), a non-profit genealogical organization headquartered in Austin, Texas, is pleased to announce a national fundraising initiative to raise \$3.7 million to digitize of the War of 1812 pension files. The digitization process will enable online access by historians and family researchers to the memories and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation's independence.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America's second war for independence, significantly shaped this country's identity both internationally and domestically. Many remember the War of 1812 as the war that give us the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the burning of the White House. Nearly 300,000 men served, including members of at least eighteen Native American tribes.

The pension records for the War of 1812 consist of more than 7.2 million documents in 180,000 files. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) receives more than three thousand requests per year for War of 1812 pensions, placing them among the most requested sets of records.

Digitizing these records will preserve the originals by removing them from continued heavy use. It will also make the images of the records much more widely available. With the cost for digitizing and saving a single page from a pension file estimated at fifty cents, supporters will see progress from the earliest days of the fundraising initiative.

A typical pension file may contain documents that describe a veteran's service as well as why he, his widow, or his dependents qualify for a pension. In the cases of widows' and dependents' filings, there are typically a number of documents proving the claimant is related to the veteran. The testimony of a veteran's comrades can provide unique and valuable data on what

military life entailed, the rigors of everyday camp life, and details of particular skirmishes and battles.

FGS is committed to projects that link the genealogical community and advance the cause of preserving records and making them more accessible. Those interested in contributing to the **Preserve the Pensions!** Project or wanting additional information should contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies via their website at [www.fgs.org/1812](http://www.fgs.org/1812), or contact Curt Witcher at 260-421-1226 or [1812@FGS.org](mailto:1812@FGS.org).

## David S. Vogels Award Recognizes Joanne Classen for Outstanding Service to Genealogical Community

Joanne Classen was recognized with the Memorial Hall of Fame-David S. Vogels Award for her longtime service to the Colorado genealogical community. The posthumous award was presented by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS).



Joanne Classen was a genealogist, a librarian, an advocate, and a friend to genealogists in Colorado. Joanne started her career at the Denver Public Library in 1971 and served as the Director of the Genealogy Department at the Central Denver Public Library from 1976 until her retirement in 1987. Joanne was the first genealogist many of us met when we began our research at the Denver Public Library. Lou-Jean Rehn said, "She would take the time to discuss your genealogical problem with you and lead you to discover the answer for yourself."

During a period of extreme budget cuts in the mid-1980s, DPL closed access to circulation to non-Denver residents. At that time Joanne fought to move the genealogical collection from closed stacks to open shelves in order to maintain access for members of genealogical societies across Colorado. Her advocacy was invaluable to the support of the wider genealogical community. She also moved the collection from the card catalog system to an electronic system allowing external access to holdings indexes.

Joanne retired from DPL in 1987 but she did not retire from her passion for genealogy. A member of the Colorado Genealogical Society since the 1976, she served as Vice President of Administrative Services from 1978-1980 and again from 1991-92. She also served as genealogical education co-chair from 1988 through 1991. She served as CGS Library Liaison and

wrote a DPL column for the CGS Quarterly from 1979-1990. Joanne also worked as a volunteer on the Colorado obituary project. She was named an Honorary Life Member of CGS for her contributions to the society.

Joanne was also President of the Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America from 1992-93 and a helpful adviser thereafter. Dick Spielman of PALAM said of Joanne, "She was my inspiration and was not hesitant to remind me of things that needed to be done to enhance our presence in the genealogy community." Joanne also served the CCGS as Library Liaison from its beginnings until 1993.

Joanne passed away in Denver on May 17, 2008.

Computer Interest Group (C.I.G.)  
(a Special Interest Group of CGS)  
Meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Night of Each Month  
at Christ the King Lutheran Church  
2300 S. Patton Court, Denver

## TIPS, TRICKS, AND TECHNIQUES

### El Paso County Divorce Records Online

The Colorado State Archives has posted an on-line index of El Paso County divorce records from 1903-1941 at [http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/divorce/el\\_paso.htm](http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/divorce/el_paso.htm). This record group reflects the official record of divorce decrees granted by the County Court during these years. Information contained in the record may show the date of the marriage, the state where the marriage took place, reason(s) for filing for divorce, names of children, court action and the date the divorce decree was granted.

### 1903 Aspen Phone Directory Online

The Aspen Historical Society has posted a digitized copy of the Aspen, Colorado, telephone directory dated 15 Jan 1903 online. You can access it at <http://www.aspenhistorysociety.com/documents/1903Januarytelephonedirectorysearchable.pdf>

### Newberry Library Posts Digital Atlas of Historical County Boundary Changes

Year-by-year changes in U.S. county boundaries in maps and text describing those changes are available for free at the Newberry Library site at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>.