

# BGS Newsletter



## IN THIS ISSUE...

A Letter from the President .....	2
Hot off the Presses .....	3
Up and (Are You Coming?) Events .....	4
A Word from Your Officers .....	5
Question of the Quarter: Who are the Romeo and Juliet in Your Family Tree? .....	6
Featured Article: Broomfield Travel Tips (circa 1920) Part II .....	10
Featured Story: .....	13
Beyond Our Branches: News from Other Genealogy Societies .....	16
Contact Us.....	17
August Holidays .....	18



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*I am bound to them though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices. I honor their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their story. I will remember them for I am the result of the very love, struggle, sacrifice and journey of thousands.*  
 – Unknown

# A Letter from the President



19 July 2024

Summer is moving swiftly, enjoy it while you can.

Our Society Board has been struggling with several challenges and we hope we are making progress. Our most pressing challenge has been figuring out how to best engage all of our members in meaningful ways, and the toughest element has been a consistent meeting place. The Broomfield Library can no longer meet our needs and so we have tried alternate places without deciding on one until now. When the Library lost our reservation for last week's meeting, we decided that was the last straw. Since there was no meeting, there will be no recording for July.

For the rest of this year, we will be meeting at the Broomfield Community Center (BCC), just north of the Library. With this change of place we will also be returning our traditional meeting day to the third Thursdays of the month. This was not an easy decision, mainly because of the expense, but also the disruption of change. For this year we have had four generous contributors underwrite the BCC fees. In the future we will have to adjust our budget, but we believe a consistent meeting place will be worth it. Coupled with the meeting place issue is the question of having hybrid meetings. We believe our members' best experience should be in-person. With Covid now being endemic instead of pandemic, we encourage everyone to respect health safety precautions for others. Since we do not plan to have hybrid zoom meetings, we also will not be recording them. We regret the inconvenience it may cause all of those who have gotten used to tuning in remotely.

This is a positive and valuable set of changes we can all look forward to. We always need your feedback and would appreciate learning how these changes affect you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Lake".

Steve Lake, President  
Broomfield Genealogy Society  
BroomfieldGenSoc.org  
[President@BroomfieldGenSoc.org](mailto:President@BroomfieldGenSoc.org)





HOT OFF THE PRESSES! NEWS FLASH! EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

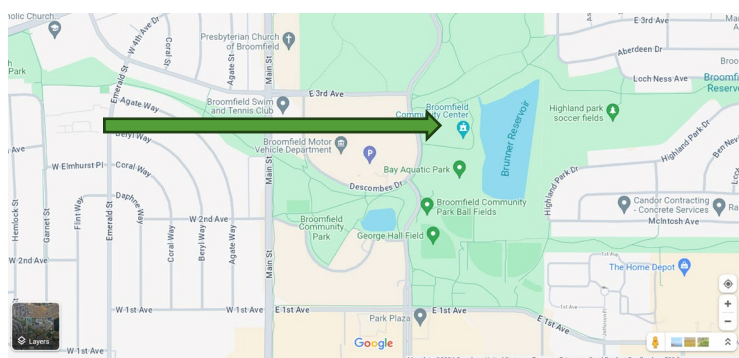


***BGS has a new home and a new meeting day!***

Starting in **September**, BGS will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30, at the Broomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way in Broomfield. The Community Center is closed for repairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in **August** – and so we will meet on the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday (8/22)** instead.



It has been challenging to schedule meeting times and places at the Library – and as much as we value consistency, demands on the Broomfield Library would not allow us to set a firm meeting date. We hope that this move will work well for all our members.



## UP AND (ARE YOU COMING?) EVENTS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY 8/15, 9 – 10:30 AM

EAST SIMPSON COFFEE HOUSE, 201 E SIMPSON STREET, LAFAYETTE

Please email Steve Lake at [president@broomfieldgensoc.org](mailto:president@broomfieldgensoc.org) if you would like to join us or have items to add to the agenda. BGS Board meetings are open to all members.

### 2ND TUESDAY GENEALOGY GROUP

TUESDAY 8/13, 7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

TOPIC: GENEALOGY PROOF STANDARD, CHAPTER 5

“GPS ELEMENT 3: ANALYSIS AND CORRELATION.” Hosted by Karen Yudnich and presented by ?, this program will explore how we can use analysis and correlation to help us reliably prove which sources and information and evidence items are likely right and which are not.

### BGS AUGUST MEETING

THURSDAY, 8/22, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

**BROOMFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER, 280 SPADER WAY, BROOMFIELD**

Meet and greet 6:30, Business meeting 7, Program, 7:15 – ?

**Icebreaker for social time**, “Who in your family tree would you would most like to interview and why?”  
**Program** – “Uncovering My Roots:The Journey to Find Birth-Parents & Genetic Heritage” Presented by Kirk Hayer

### UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Time	Place
10 Sep – Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Genealogy Group	7 PM	Zoom
12 Sep – Thursday	Executive Board Meeting	9 AM	East Simpson Coffee House, 201 E. Simpson Street, Lafayette
19 Sep – Thursday	BGS Meeting	6:30 PM	In person only, Broomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way, Broomfield
8 Oct – Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Genealogy Group	7 PM	Zoom
10 Oct – Thursday	Executive Board Meeting	9 AM	East Simpson Coffee House, 201 E. Simpson Street, Lafayette
17 Oct – Thursday	BGS Meeting	6:30 PM	In person only, Broomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way, Broomfield
12 Nov – Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Genealogy Group	7 PM	Zoom
14 Nov - Thursday	Executive Board Meeting	9 AM	East Simpson Coffee House, 201 E. Simpson Street, Lafayette
21 Nov – Thursday	BGS Meeting	6:30 PM	In person only, Broomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way, Broomfield
12 Dec – Thursday	Executive Board Meeting	9 AM	East Simpson Coffee House, 201 E. Simpson Street, Lafayette
19 Dec – Thursday	BGS Meeting 6:30 PM	6:30 PM	In person only, Broomfield Community Center, 280 Spader Way, Broomfield

**UPCOMING BGS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES****Riverside Cemetery**

Historical Riverside Cemetery offers free tours during the summers on Sundays. There are two left. If you are interested, please join us! Even if Eventbrite says Sold Out, you are still welcome to show up and attend. (The free membership at Eventbrite, only allows 25 tickets but Riverside doesn't limit attendees.) The sign-up is on <https://www.eventbrite.com/>.

Free Sunday Tours (Not listed on Eventbrite but still happening)

August 18, 2024 10:00 AM On sale; you can register now. If Event says, "Sold Out," you are still welcome to show up. [Reserve spot Aug 18](#)

Sun, Sep 22 • 10:00 AM On Sale Aug 11 at 12:00 AM

If Event says, "Sold Out," you are still welcome to show up and attend. [Sunday September 22 Tour](#)

If you would like to carpool for either of the Sunday tours, please email [vicepresident@broomfieldgensoc.org](mailto:vicepresident@broomfieldgensoc.org).

**Fairmount Cemetery Mystery Tours**

Tickets are limited and cost from \$25.00. For more information, google "EVENTBRITE History Mystery Tour – Fairmount Cemetery." Tours are Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12 at 6, 7 and 9 PM. You are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the tour time.

---

*Join our tour guide for a stroll through Denver's most prestigious cemetery. Our evening begins at the Ivy Chapel and slowly moves through the cemetery in the dark led only by the flashlights of your tour guide and their trusty assistant. Bring your own if you must, but our way is much more interesting.*

*Our goal is to enlighten, not frighten! This is not a ghost tour! During our evening together you will meet some of the famous and infamous who call Fairmount their final home.*

*Please dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. All participants need a ticket – and all ticket sales are on EVENTBRITE. No sales at the door, no dogs, no refunds and no smoking on the property!*

*Each tour begins at 7 PM. Be on time or miss the tour!*

---

## A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICERS

### FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT, KAREN YUDNICH

The Second Tuesday Genealogy Group is having a fantastic year studying the National Genealogical Society book, Mastering Genealogical Proof. Even if you do not want to buy the book, you can always join in to listen. The registration link is always the same and then you need to choose the month you want to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpd-2hqzgiH9douKRYe4ZrLf-L8JhjFxrw>

### FROM THE EDITOR, GAIL ELIAS

Thanks to your Recording Secretary, Jacque Mahan, and yours truly, BGS has two outreach programs that we can offer to interested groups. Initially, we are contacting the program/activities manager in multiple senior living communities to gauge their interest in one or more of our outreach programs.

Our programs will be presented by two BGS Genealogists. Programs are 1-2 hours in a structured workshop setting which includes a PowerPoint presentation, time for questions and answers, and an opportunity for 1:1 research. Each PowerPoint has suggested script provided in the notes section.

#### GENEALOGY 101

This program focuses on the basics of good genealogy practice, including:

- ✓ Genealogy vs Family History
- ✓ Four Basic Steps to Successful Genealogy
- ✓ An Overview of Genealogy Software and On-line Resources
- ✓ Organize
- ✓ Evaluate Your Research

#### DOCUMENTING YOUR LIFE STORY – ORAL HISTORY

This program focuses on:

- ✓ Ways to get started
- ✓ Ways to organize an oral history
- ✓ How to select a format for your story
- ✓ The tech you can use for your oral history
- ✓ How to preserve, refine and pass on your oral tradition.

Our outreach has been well received and we are following up with two facilities, the Peaks at Old Laramie Trail and the Gallery at Broomfield. As plans are finalized, expect an email – and, more importantly, - an invitation to become part of this outreach project. The Peaks at Old Laramie Trail does have an application process for all volunteers. I have the necessary paperwork to get you started. I would encourage any of you who would like to be part of this outreach to contact me for more information at [Editor@Broomfieldgensoc.org](mailto:Editor@Broomfieldgensoc.org).



## QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

For our first of what we hope will be many in the "Question of the Quarter" series, we asked our readers, *"Who are the Romeo and Juliet in your family tree?"*

Here are the "star-crossed lovers" that our members shared.

### A MAY-DECEMBER ROMANCE IN THE SAND HILLS OF NEBRASKA

By Steve Lake

The Nebraska Sandhills are grass-stabilized sand dunes covering 42 counties. An exemption to the Homestead Act allowed 640 acres, instead of 160. Theodore and Anna Folk arrived in 1905 to claim a homestead, then Frank and Nell Lake arrived in 1910. Irene was born on the Folk homestead in 1908 and after finishing her schooling, she started teaching school. One of the one-room rural schools where she was sent was about twenty miles from her home



and so she boarded at the Lake home. Frank and Nell had three sons who were still in school, Mirza "Joe" Joseph, Harold "Gene" Eugene, and Wallace Wayne. Gene and Irene had a special relationship, but since he was five years younger, he was probably no more than her favorite student.



Irene had an interest in the Bible and studied with Frank and Nell, accepting Sabbath observance, baptism and the other Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. She wanted to become a nurse, but her parents were against it. Irene gained the support of her Aunt Marie Irene for tuition and went to California and received her degree at the Loma Linda School of Nursing in 1932. Returning to Nebraska, the nearest hospital was sixty miles away, and there were only a few doctors in between, none of whom needed a nurse, so employment in nursing was impossible. The next practical thing she could do, though, was to get married. Gene had finished eighth grade and began his career in cattle raising. It is unknown what their parents thought of their romance and age difference, but it would have mattered little, for they were young, in love and both were head-strong, getting married in 1934.

Irene and Gene started raising cattle, horses and a family. Irene was frequently called on by neighbors for medical emergencies. Automobiles and telephones were a major improvement for healthcare in the Sandhills. Irene could perform necessary first-aid and stabilization, being able to make a phone call if she needed advice or to arrange transportation when needed. In one particular case, the doctor disagreed with her diagnosis, but she took her son to the hospital in time for an appendectomy that saved his life, anyway. They loved the Sandhills and their stock-raising, their children and each other. Life was all about getting done whatever needed to be done.

Raising a family of five had all kinds of challenges during the Depression and War years. About the time that their children were through college and married, they could not relax in their empty ranch nest, because their parents needed their care. Irene's father died in 1955, her mother in 1966, then Gene's mother died in 1969 and his father moved in with Gene's brother. This presented a problem of what to do with Gene's grandparents'

house in southeastern Nebraska, that Frank had inherited. The decision was made that Gene and Irene would leave their beloved ranch in the Sandhills to start their retirement of sorts on a small farm with a very large house.

It really wasn't retirement, and they didn't call it that. Sitting back and collecting social security was not their style. Irene worked part time at the hospital three miles away, joined local ladies clubs and raised a garden. Gene traded a few head of stock, learned to plant and harvest crops like milo and alfalfa. They both worked on house cleaning and remodeling and learned about the values of antiques. Their new location was much less out of the way than the ranch, and the big house was often full of neighbors, friends, family and relatives. As they aged, their incompatibilities and co-dependencies became more pronounced, many emotional issues had not been adequately dealt with.

They became more like themselves with less need for the facades of self-image and social norms. In spite of this, they still displayed tender moments of affection and devotion that they surely shared for all of their sixty-five years together. As is often the case, a devoted couple will die within a short time of each other. Irene died less than a month before their 65th Anniversary and Gene died less than four months later. Their stubborn love for their Redeemer and each other stands as a fitting legacy.

### THE METHODIST AND THE BRETHREN – A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN?

By Gail Elias

Ira Cloyd Elias, my paternal grandfather, comes from a long line of Methodists. Ira was born 9 Nov 1884 in Trough Creek, Todd Township, Huntingdon County, PA to George Washington Elias and Margaret Ann McNeal. George, like his father Andrew, his grandfather Henry Jr. and his great-grandfather, Henry Sr. grew up attending the Methodist Church that Henry Sr. founded.

Even to this day, Todd is a very rural and isolated part of Huntingdon County. Agriculture ruled. However, it does not appear that Ira thought much of farming. Instead, he took after his father, George Washington, who had a profitable non-farming business - the 19<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of long-haul trucking. According to family history (and his log book!), George had the pleasure (?) of hauling dynamite in a horse-drawn wagon to blast the tunnels that are still used in today's Pennsylvania turnpike.

When Ira reached his teen years, apparently his "need for speed" kicked in and he began driving his mare the 20 miles or so over to Clover Creek, in Blair County, where a German Baptist Brethren community apparently held regular harness races. At one of those races, it seems an attractive young Brethren girl, Margaret Brumbaugh Kensinger, caught his eye. Obviously, he went back for more than one race, because on 25 Nov 1909 he and my grandma Margaret were united in marriage.



*Methodist Church, Todd PA*



*Ira and Margaret Elias about 1910*



Given the endogamous nature of the Brethren community, this could not have gone over particularly well with her father, Isaac C. Kensinger or her mother Susannah Brumbaugh. Marriage to a buggy racing Methodist! Wow! This is, however, the time when the Brethren began to change from an “inward looking” community, like today’s Amish, to a community that was more open to engaging with those around them. It looks like Ira and Margaret were part of that movement – and engage they did in oh so many ways!

Ira and Margaret had five children and lived a long and apparently happy life – in spite of Ira’s continued need for speed, i.e., case in point, the ‘39 Indian motorcycle he used to commute to work on the Pennsylvania Railroad. And, yes, that’s me and my Dad in the photo with my “Romeo and Juliet.” Margaret died 2 Nov 1949; Ira died 9 Mar 1963. They’re buried In Martinsburg near their long-time home in Duncansville, PA. It looks like Brethren and Methodists can find a way to co-exist!

### THE NEXT QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

*The next Question of the Quarter of 2024 will be: “Who in your family tree traveled farthest to come to the United States – and why?”*

Contact your editor at [editor@broomfieldgensoc.org](mailto:editor@broomfieldgensoc.org) to share.



- 1) In a few words (ideally 200 or so), write something you would like to share about a person or event in your family tree that is mysterious. If you don’t want to do the writing, your editor is happy to ghost write.
- 2) Pop it in an email and send it off to [editor@broomfieldgensoc.org](mailto:editor@broomfieldgensoc.org)
- 3) It will miraculously appear in our next quarterly newsletter (August 2024).

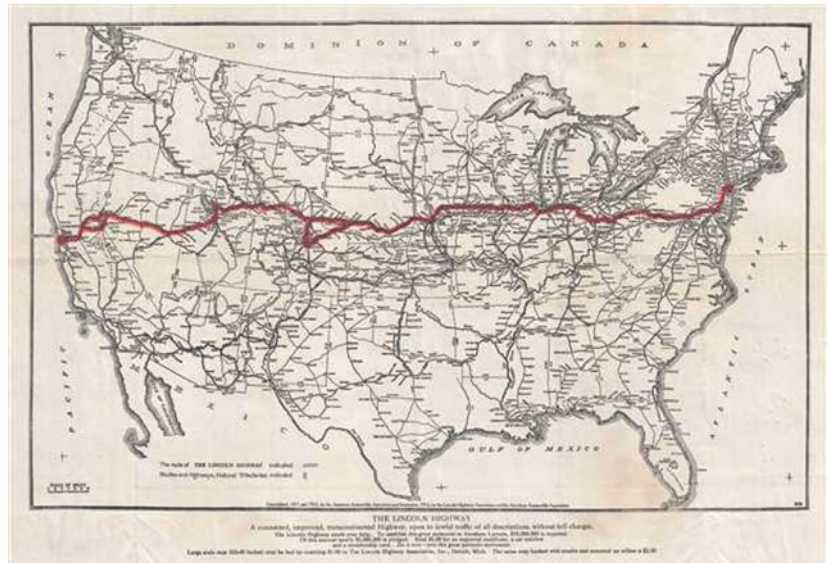
## FEATURED ARTICLE: BROOMFIELD TRAVEL TIPS (CIRCA 1920) – PART 2”

By Gail Elias, Editor

### THE MOVEMENT TO PAVE ROADS AND THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY (REFRESHER COURSE)

The Lincoln Highway was the “brainchild” of an Indiana entrepreneur who wanted to build a paved highway from Times Square in NYC to Lincoln Park in San Francisco.<sup>1</sup>

After considerable lobbying, when the Lincoln Highway was officially proclaimed, it included a loop through Colorado. The “Loop” left the main highway at Big Springs NE, with a diagonal to Denver and then straight north to Cheyenne WY. Today Highways I-76 and I-25 parallel the suggested route. This was only the first of many episodes of “wheeling and dealing” to capitalize on the opportunity the Lincoln Highway presented.<sup>2</sup> The only problem for Colorado was – none of these roads were paved and at least one, Highway 287, did not exist. Let the games begin!

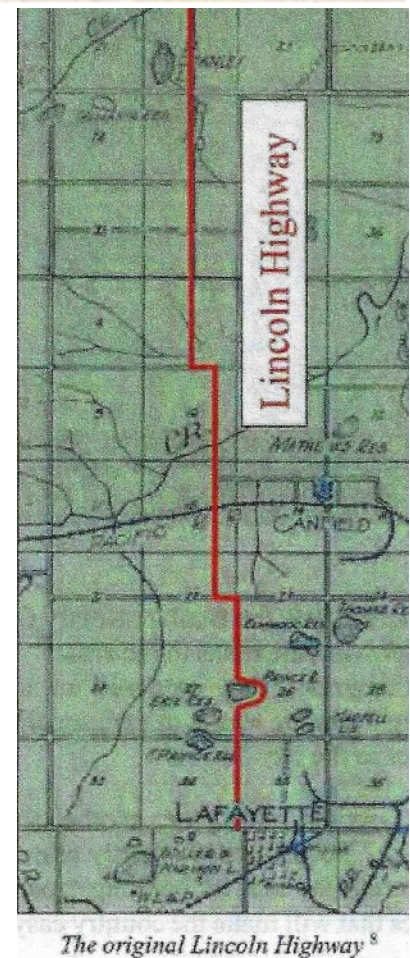


### ROUND 1 – BOULDER WANTS A PIECE OF THE ACTION

On 26 Jan 1917, the Lafayette Leader reported that Loveland and Longmont were planning camping grounds for tourists and that travelers on the Lincoln Highway had spent hundreds of dollars in Denver to buy provisions for their outing to the newly opened Rocky Mountain National Park. Moving from journalism to an “op-ed” the writer noted, “Why cannot Lafayette make a bid for this trade?”<sup>3</sup>

Not to be outdone, in March the Boulder County Road fund asked the State Highway Commission (CDOT’s great-grandfather) for \$20,000 to add to the county’s mill levy to repair the Lincoln Highway from Broomfield to the Larimer County line.<sup>4</sup> In June 1919, Lafayette began to “adjust” the Lincoln Highway by eliminating a “blind curve” at Baseline by running the highway along the east side of the Lafayette Cemetery (yes the east side – where today’s Lafayette Rec Center is) and connecting to North 111<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>5</sup>

By late 1920, Boulder’s plan to make Arapahoe Road passable had significant dollars attached, \$60,000 as of December 8<sup>th</sup>. They clearly had figured out that the traffic was going north to Longmont and Estes Park. So, the movers and shakers had a decision to make:



*The original Lincoln Highway*<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Highway)

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Route\\_of\\_the\\_Lincoln\\_Highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Route_of_the_Lincoln_Highway)

<sup>3</sup> The Lafayette Leader, Volume XII, Number 51, January 16, 1917

<sup>4</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Volume 26, Number 308, March 3 1917

<sup>5</sup> The Lafayette Leader, Volume XVI, Number 26, June 27, 1919



- ✓ Spend the \$60,000 from Federal dollars on paving the Lincoln Highway at Ten Mile Corner (today's N 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Arapahoe Road) or
- ✓ Spend it on paving Arapahoe which was what they were funded to do.

The issue – if they lost the federal funding, there was an 8-mile unpaved stretch of Arapahoe blocking plans to draw “tourists” to Boulder. To complicate matters, representatives of Longmont met with other interested parties to promote the position that the Lincoln Highway should be paved first and branches off it second.<sup>6</sup> In January, following news that Denver was about to throw its strength into supporting Northern Colorado's position on the highway, Boulder representatives who had attended a conference of interested parties, reported that they were certain that the Lincoln Highway would receive State Funding.<sup>7</sup>

## ROUND 2 – ADAMS COUNTY WEIGHS IN

In October 1921, word got out that the State Highway Commission was considering paving the north-south road along the Boulder-Adams County line, turning west “somewhere near Longmont. And the State Engineer who was sent to survey the route reported that he was against the route through Broomfield because of Goodhue Hill. Needless to say, this did not sit well with the folks in Lafayette and Boulder.<sup>8</sup>

Boulder responded to this threat with a lengthy article in the Daily Camera, intense lobbying by the Boulder Good Roads Committee, and a whole lot of “wheeling and dealing” with State Officials. By the 19<sup>th</sup> of October (8

### ADAMS COUNTY OFFICIALS CAUGHT IN AN ACT OF BAD FAITH IN EFFORT TO DIVERT HIGHWAY FROM LAFAYETTE TO THE EAST

**Boulder County Men Inaugurate a Fight to Maintain Present Line of Lincoln Highway and Ascertain at the Offset That the County—Adams—That Boulder County Assisted to Get Paving With Federal Aid, Is Behind the Move for Diversion.**

days after the “bad faith” article was printed), the Daily Times reported that the change in the route was never seriously considered by the state and that it had been proposed by the Adams County Commissioners.<sup>9</sup>

## ROUND 3 – THE ROAD OF REMEMBRANCE RUSE

Plans for paving the Lincoln Highway continued – and, quite like today, moved at a snail's pace. People continued to drive badly on New Years Eve<sup>10</sup> and mud was still a problem as the paving of Arapahoe Road progressed very slowly. In 1923, as part of a national effort to remember those who served in WWI, a creative thinker in Boulder thought adding an ornamental arch over Arapahoe Road at Ten Mile Corner might just do the trick to get motorists on the Lincoln Highway to come to Boulder.<sup>11</sup>

**DEAD MAN'S CURVE THE SCENE  
OF A TERRIFIC AUTO UPSET  
CAUSED BY TOO MUCH LIQUOR;  
ONE KILLED, TWO BADLY HURT**

<sup>6</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 231, December 8, 1920

<sup>7</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 272, January 26, 1921

<sup>8</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 273, October 8, 1921

<sup>9</sup> The Daily Times, Volume XXVII, Number 260, October 19, 1921

<sup>10</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 250, December 31, 1921

<sup>11</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 268, January 29, 1923



Clearly, the “behind the scenes” action was intense. In June, the Daily Camera offered great news the proposed route moved a half mile west of the Lafayette Cemetery with a straight north-south connection to Longmont. A pretty good description of Highway 287! However, there was just one small glitch. It would bisect a number of ranches and “Condemnation proceedings may be necessary in order to secure the right of way.”<sup>12</sup>

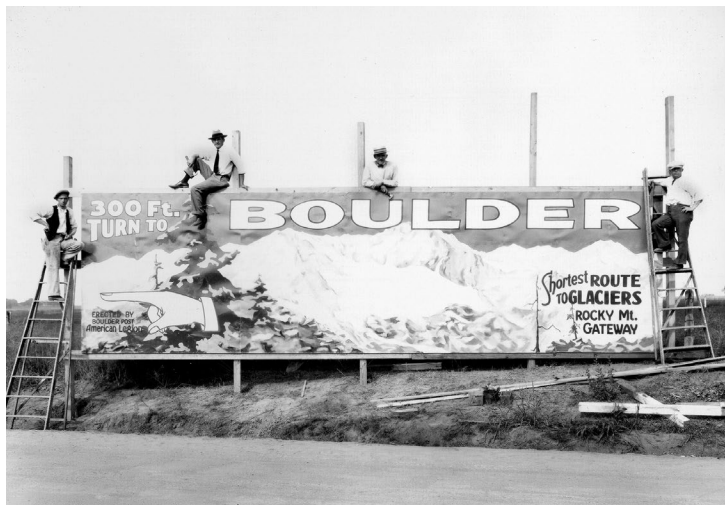
Condemnation was no more popular then than it is today, and several notable Lafayette and Canfield residents objected. J.O.V. Wise proclaimed, “the old route had served for over forty years and there was no reason for the change.”<sup>13</sup> I won’t bore you with all the newspaper articles and headlines that followed when (no surprise) the case went to court. When the case was settled in court, the farmers (J.O.V. Wise, Arthur Sawdey, A. M. Leyner, John Lackland and John Rothrock) were each awarded \$11,000 for the right-of-way through their land.<sup>14</sup> They appealed. Ultimately, this suit was not successful in the courts. However, the court of public opinion was something else.

The City of Boulder continued their bid to attract tourists on the Lincoln Highway – much to the chagrin of Longmont and other towns in east Boulder County. In addition to the billboard, the American Legion Post in Boulder added a little house at Ten Mile Corner from which pamphlets were distributed warning travelers that there were no real towns north on the highway and they must come to Boulder for accommodations. On July 23, 1926, a mysterious fire burned the “steering hut” to the ground. The paper reported, “The origin of the fire which wiped out the hut Friday night is not known. Some are of the opinion that it was of incendiary origin. Others there are who claim that it was an overabundance of Boulder “hot air” which caused the conflagration.”<sup>15</sup>

In June 1928 – a mere 11 years after this odyssey began, local politicians gathered to dedicate the Road of Remembrance gateway. So, what conclusions can we draw? 1) Construction takes a long time and 2) Politics hasn’t changed much either!

## LINCOLN HIGHWAY SHOULD FOLLOW NEW ROUTE WEST OF PRESENT ROAD SAY FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICERS

*Unanimous Agreement Reached by All Interested Officials to Move Route Half Mile West; Surveys Ordered; Officials Make Trip of Inspection.*



*Billboard at Arapahoe and N 111th St, c 1926, Carnegie Library*



*Road of Remembrance Gateway Dedication - Carnegie Library*

<sup>12</sup> Boulder Daily Camera, Number 87, June 26, 1923

<sup>13</sup> The Daily Times, Volume XXXI, Number 153, June 11, 1925

<sup>14</sup> The Lafayette Leader, Volume XIV, Number 3, January 15, 1926

<sup>15</sup> The Lafayette Leader, Volume XIV, Number 30, July 23, 1926

## FEATURED STORY: DR. NANCY ANN WOOD, MY GREAT GRANDAUNT

By Karen Yudnich

My great-grandaunt, Nancy Ann Wood, also known as Dr. Anna, was born 23 June 1848<sup>16</sup>. I remembered my mother talking about Dr. Anna even though she never met her. A woman doctor in the late 1800s made me curious and I did some research.

On a visit to Terre Haute, Indiana I found a newspaper clipping welcoming in the New Year of 1895 with "A Long and Honorable List of Men Who are a Credit to Terra Haute." Then there was a listing of all of the twenty-two doctors in Terre Haute. Most of the names had initials however there appeared to be four women's names, all listed by their last name and given name, except for one who seemed to have her husband listed, followed by "Mrs."

- Moore, A.L. Wilson Mrs.
- Patton, Madge
- Stephens, Emma H.
- Wood, Anna<sup>17</sup>

After searching, I did find a few more references for Anna.

*The Terre Haute Indiana Sunday Star of 2 June 1907 contains a group of Terre Haute Women with special vocations. Among them are Dr. Ann Wood and Madge P. Hawkins.*<sup>18</sup>

Anna was born on 23 Jun 1848 in Carter, Indiana. Her father, Robert Wood, was twenty-eight, and her mother, Rebecca Jane (Armstrong) Wood, was thirty-four. The family farm was three miles from Dale, IN. Nancy lived in Carter Township in the 1850 – 1870 according to the U.S. Censuses (<sup>19,20,21</sup>) and in 1880<sup>22</sup> she was listed in Terre Haute. She was 31 years old, single marriage status, living with her father and sisters, Rebecca J and Sarah E.



Dr. Anna Wood

By the age of twenty-eight, Anna had seen the death of her mother, two brothers, and a sister. Was this what initiated her interest in medicine? Anna studied medicine as an apprentice from Sep 1887 to Oct 1889 under Wm R M Mohan MD, a graduate of Rush Medical College.<sup>23</sup> I have admission cards for Women's Medical College Laboratories and Cook County Hospital, all in Chicago, and certificates of her passing the following classes.<sup>24</sup>

- Examination of Pathological Specimens 11 Mar 1888
- Examination of Histological Specimens 27 Mar 1888
- Attended one course in Practical Anatomy (Parts dissected Head)

In the 1900 Census, Anna was again living in Terre Haute with only her sister, Rebecca Jane.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Bible of Mary L. Wood, author's possession.

<sup>17</sup> Newspaper Clipping, 31 Dec 1895, obtained from Virgo County Public Library.

<sup>18</sup> The Terre Haute Indiana Sunday Star

<sup>19</sup> Year: 1850; Census Place: Carter, Spencer, Indiana; Roll: M432\_172; Page: 5B; Image: 401

<sup>20</sup> The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M653; Residence Date: 1860; Home in 1860: Carter, Spencer, Indiana; Roll: M653\_297; Page: 118; Family History Library Film:

<sup>21</sup> Year: 1870; Census Place: Carter, Spencer, Indiana; Roll: M593\_358; Page: 389A5

<sup>22</sup> Year: 1880; Census Place: Terre Haute, Vigo, Indiana; Roll: 318; Family History Film: 1254318; Page: 352D; Enumeration District: 209; Image: 0707

<sup>23</sup> Preceptor's Certificate, Wm K. M Mohan Huntingburg, IN 25 Dec 1888, in author's possession.

<sup>24</sup> Certificates and passes in author's possession.



My mother never knew Anna, but my grandmother, Flora English, had known Anna quite well. After Flora's mother's death from cholera in 1901 at the age of five, along with her younger sister and two younger brothers, all went to School in Terre Haute and lived with their aunt, Rebecca Jane, Anna's sister. The children spent their summers with their father in Trousdale, KS, and every school year, they would ride by train with lots of hard-boiled eggs to eat on the long journey with their aunt Jenny to Terre Haute.

The stories my mother told me about Anna always fascinated me. Anna went to France to study medicine because of cheap cadavers. I have no record of this other than what my mother told me, and I do not know when she went to France. According to several sources, Anna was a Homeopathic Doctor. I also admired Anna, for in the early 1990s letters that she wrote and I currently own, she told her brother to stop smoking because it was terrible for him.

The "Germ Theory" was popularized in Europe and North America between 1850 and 1890, but the United States was slower to begin practicing the theory. William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States, died after being shot in 1901. Right after the attack, one of the physicians reached inside the wound and pulled out the bullet. Eventually, the President died of Gangrene. Had the physician not entered the wound with an unsterile hand, he might have lived. Mom always said that Anna only operated on newspapers because she felt they were cleaner.

In Anna's 16 years<sup>25</sup> of practice in Terre Haute, she was known for riding around town on Penny-farthing, a high front-wheel bicycle. I always imagined her on the bike with a basket carrying her doctor's black bag.

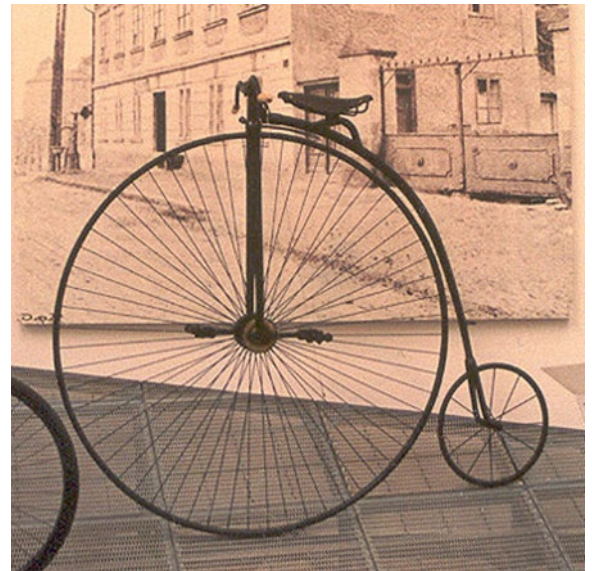
Another informational link said,

*ANNA WOOD, Terra Haute, Indiana, born Dale, Spencer County, Ind. 1848; graduated from State Normal School, Terre Haute, 1886; graduated M.D. from Woman's Hospital Medical College of Chicago, 1887; diploma also from Columbia College of Osteopathy, Chicago.<sup>26</sup>*

Anna died 1 Jul 1908 at age 60 after practicing 16 years in Terre Haute. She died of Tuberculosis, according to her death certificate.<sup>27</sup> Her illness was probably caused from years of taking care of sick patients.

After researching Dr. Anna, I wanted to know more about women doctors in the 1800s. What schools did they have access to? Were they and men doctors treated similarly? My first question was when did the first female become a doctor in the US and who was she?

The answer to that question was Elizabeth Blackwell. After being rejected by ten medical schools, Blackwell refused a professor's suggestion that she disguise herself as a male to gain admission. Dr. Blackwell persisted after an ill friend insisted that she would have received better care from a female doctor. In 1849 she became the first woman doctor in the United States to be granted an MD degree. She graduated from Geneva Medical College in New York. After graduation, she had a challenging time finding work. Despite all, in 1857, she co-founded



By Agnieszka Kwiecien (Nova) - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14059>

<sup>25</sup> Tribune-Star Newspaper, Special Collections, Virgo County Public Library, 1 Jul 1908

<sup>26</sup> History of Homeopathy and its institutions in America and Its Institutions in America v. 3., Volume 3 William Harvey King, M.D., LL.D, New York, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1905, p 304.

<sup>27</sup> Anna Wood, Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Death Certificates; Year: 1908; Roll: 13



the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children to serve the poor. She also created the in 1867 intended to support and encourage women wishing to pursue careers in medicine.<sup>28</sup>



*Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary*

Boston Female Medical College which was later called the New England Female Medical College. It was the first medical school for women in the world. The first class of twelve women graduated in 1850<sup>29</sup>. It later merged with Boston University to become the Boston University School of Medicine in 1874. The second school was Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania was founded in 1850.<sup>30</sup>

**Dr. Mary Thompson** was born at Fort Ann, New York in 1829 studied at the New England Female Medical College in Boston and was awarded an MD in 1863 and that same year relocated to Chicago. (3) Dr. Thompson then started Chicago Hospital for Women and Children in 1865 which was primarily a charity hospital for those affected by the Civil War. It was renamed Mary Thompson Hospital after her death in 1895 and operated until 1988.<sup>31</sup>

Most Women's Medical colleges were instrumental in helping women gain access to medical educations and careers in medicine. Despite that fact, most were short-lived.

<sup>28</sup> Association of American Medical Colleges NEWS, By Stacy Weiner, Senior Staff Writer Celebrating women medical pioneers. <https://www.aamc.org/news/celebrating-10-women-medical-pioneers>, accessed 30 Oct 2023.

<sup>29</sup> History of Women at HMS: Matriculation of Women at Harvard Medical School

<sup>30</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman%27s\\_Medical\\_College\\_of\\_Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman%27s_Medical_College_of_Pennsylvania)

<sup>31</sup> Chicago Hospital for Women and Children, Wikipedia.org.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago\\_Hospital\\_for\\_Women\\_and\\_Children#:~:text=5%20References-,History,who%20had%20died%20in%20battle.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Hospital_for_Women_and_Children#:~:text=5%20References-,History,who%20had%20died%20in%20battle.)

## BEYOND OUR BRANCHES: NEWS FROM OTHER GENEALOGY SOCIETIES

### NATIONAL GENEALOGY SOCIETY (NGS)

For more information visit the NGS website [here](#).

### COLORADO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (CGS)

For more information visit the CGS website [here](#).

### COLORADO COUNCIL OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (CCGS)

Karen Yudnich, the new interim CCGS Vice President has exciting information to share about the Colorado First Families Recognition Program. As of today, more than 1,000 genealogists have proved that they descend from a Colorado Pioneer!

There are three ways to be recognized:

- ✓ First Family – your ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, the land area of what is now Colorado, before 28 February 1861.
- ✓ Territorial Family – your ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, a territory that is now Colorado, between 28 February 1871 and 1 August 1876.
- ✓ Centennial Family – your ancestor must have been born in, or settled in, Colorado at least 100 years prior to the date of the Centennial Family application.

For more information about the First Families program, [click here](#).



## CONTACT US

### BROOMFIELD GENEALOGY SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Steve Lake	<a href="mailto:President@Broomfieldgensoc.org">President@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Vice President	Karen Yudnich	<a href="mailto:Vicepresident@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Vicepresident@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Treasurer	Bob Yudnich	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Treasurer@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Secretary	Jacque Mahan	<a href="mailto:Secretary@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Secretary@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Director of Education	Kirk Hayer	<a href="mailto:Education@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Education@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Director of Membership	Cindy Elger	<a href="mailto:Membership@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Membership@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Director of Activities	Vacant	<a href="mailto:Activities@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Activities@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Past President	Conrad Jackson	<a href="mailto:PastPresident@Broomfieldgensoc.org">PastPresident@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Webmaster	Kirk Hayer	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Webmaster@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>
Editor	Gail Elias	<a href="mailto:Editor@Broomfieldgensoc.org">Editor@Broomfieldgensoc.org</a>

Broomfield Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 1839, Broomfield, Colorado 80038

Interested in joining? Visit us at <https://www.broomfieldgensoc.org/>



## AUGUST HOLIDAYS

August is National:

- ✓ Peach Month
- ✓ Family Fun Month and
- ✓ Back to School Month

And on these days, we celebrate –

1 August – Homemade Pie Day  
2 August – International Beer & Ice Cream Sandwich Day  
3 August – Watermelon Day  
4 August – Chocolate Chip Cookie & White Wine Day  
5 August – Oyster Day  
6 August – Root Beer Float Day  
7 August – Raspberries & Cream Day  
8 August – Frozen Custard Day  
9 August – Rice Pudding Day  
10 August – S'mores Day  
13 August – Filet Mignon Day  
14 August – Creamsicle Day  
15 August – Lemon Meringue Pie Day  
16 August – Kool-Aid Day  
18 August – Fajita & Ice Cream Pie Day  
19 August – Potato Day  
20 August – Bacon Lovers Day  
21 August – Spumoni Day  
22 August – Burger Day  
23 August – Buttered Corn and Cuban Sandwich Day  
24 August – Peach Pie Day  
25 August – Banana Split Day  
26 August – Cherry Popsicle Day  
27 August – Banana Lovers Day  
28 August – Cherry Turnover & Red Wine Day  
29 August – Chop Suey Day  
30 August – Toasted Marshmallow Day  
31 August – Eat Outside and Trail Mix Day

**Editor's Note:** See a pattern here?

Any possibility that September will include a National Call Your Cardiologist Day? A Join Weight-watchers Day? Any other ideas?