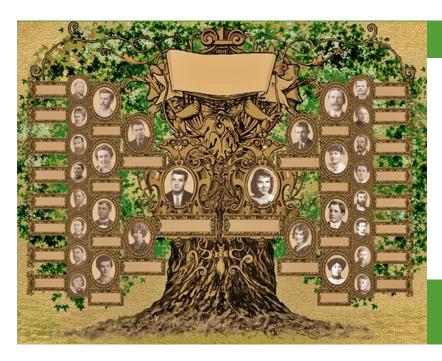
BGS Newsletter





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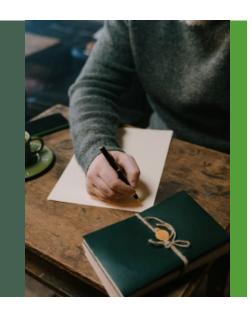
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

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



President's Letter

03 February 2025

I hope you are all coping well with the coldest part of Winter. Whether you hate the weather or are invigorated by it, the season offers opportunities to rise to new challenges. As the seasons change, we have to adapt. May you remain safe and warm.

Our Society is adapting to new challenges in the new year. Things will never be the same, but hopefully things are more tolerable than during the pandemic. We want to meet in person and enjoy closer social interaction, and we need to get to know one another better. The upcoming February meeting is our first for the calendar year of 2025 and we hope to see many of you there. Note that we are planning more field trips and outings in the coming year to give us more chances to socialize outside of our regular meetings. We endeavor to support each of you in your pursuit of your family history.

Our Society Board has discussed important issues for 2025 at our last two Executive meetings, such as our budget, programs and activities. These conversations will continue, so if you have any concerns or ideas, please contact one of us. I want to thank all of our volunteer leadership for their time, ideas and work in supporting our society. Kirk and Bob have agreed to trade positions for a change of pace. Kirk will be our treasurer going forward, and Bob will take over education and speaker planning.

Best Regards,

Steve Lake, President

Stowerake

Broomfield Genealogy Society

BroomfieldGenSoc.org

President@BroomfieldGenSoc.org



UP AND (ARE YOU COMING?) EVENTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY 2/13, 10 - 11:30 AM

EAST SIMPSON COFFEE HOUSE, 201 E SIMPSON STREET, LAFAYETTE

Please email Steve Lake at 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.

BGS FEBRUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, 2/20, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

ZOOM ONLY

Meet and greet 6:30, Business meeting 6:50, Program, 7:00 – 8:00

Program – "What's Your Genealogy Story? Presented by YOU!

One of our goals this year is to provide more interactive programs so that we can learn more about our genealogy skills, interests, brick walls, and triumphs. Bob Yudnich, Education Director, will take the lead in this group participation program. After a genealogy joke or two, Bob will talk about his grandparents' immigration from Slovenia and Italy about 1910 and share why they immigrated and the hardships they faced when they got to America.

Your Part – in no more than 5 minutes, introduce your self and tell us a brief genealogy or family story. It could be about the times and conditions in which your ancestors lived, what's your "go to" genealogy work, or anything that will help us learn more about your interest in genealogy.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG): "NGS MASTERING GENEALOGY DOCMENTATION" 2^{ND} & 4^{TH} WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY – NOVEMBER 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 PM VIA ZOOM

"Mastering Genealogical Documentation" by Dr. Thomas W. Jones is a step-by-step guide designed to help genealogists cite sources clearly, accurately, and completely. It emphasizes the importance of proper documentation for credibility in genealogical research. The book teaches how to cite various sources, even those without existing citation models, and presents principles, patterns, and logic to guide users in creating structured documentation. Each chapter includes exercises with answers to reinforce learning, ensuring genealogists can meet the field's published standards with clarity and competence.

The class will last from March 12 and end on November 12. Last years class elected to do the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. A leader will go through the material in the chapter and the meeting will last about one hour with a discussion afterward. Class members will be the facilitators. I will try to make videos and send them out to the class. It will be a wonderful learning opportunity.

I have scheduled a reoccurring meeting for this class. You must register for the 2nd Wednesday class separately from the 4th Wednesday class because of the way ZOOM handles the links. You may register for all of the meetings for that Wednesday at once.

Second Wednesday of the Month Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bKzxnBhSdGRTH6lHBqrlQ

Fourth Wednesday of the Month Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2xdkcb6FT9GYvXdh1iBMyw

If you have any questions, please email Karen Yudnich at <u>vicepresident@broomfieldgensoc.org</u>. We hope to see you there.

UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tues 11 Feb	Tour Denver Public Library	Please see Yudnich	article below from Vice President Karen
Weds 12 Feb	SIG – Mastering Genealogy Documentation	1:00	Zoom
Thurs 20 Feb	February BGS Meeting	6:30	ZOOM ONLY
Weds 26 Feb	SIG – Mastering Genealogy Documentation	1:00	Zoom
Thurs 20 Mar	March BGS Meeting	6:30	ZOOM ONLY
Thurs 17 Apr	April BGS Meeting	6:30	ZOOM ONLY

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICERS

VICE PRESIDENT, KAREN YUDNICH

AT LAST! A TOUR OF THE NEWLY REMODELLED DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY!

BGS members can finally visit the newly remodeled downtown Denver Public Library and its great genealogy collection. Heidi Young, Special Collections Librarian will be our guide. For more about the library, check out their website at history@denverlibrary.org.

The tour will start at 10:00 sharp and will last an hour. At 11, we will have the opportunity to research for about an hour. After that, we can enjoy a healthy lunch at Mad Greens, next door to the library. The plan is to carpool. We will meet at the Broomfield public library at 9 AM; a few dollars to compensate the driver for gas and parking would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Karen Yudnich at (720) 382-3917 or vicepresident@Broomfieldgensoc.org to sign up for this event.

ACTIVITIES ANYONE?

One of the benefits of BGS membership is an opportunity to participate with other members in a variety of events, tied to genealogy, local history and more. For this year, we'd like to introduce you to a list of potential events and invite you to help us make them happen. In no particular order, here are some events your board has thought of:

- ❖ Visit to a Family Search Center (Arvada and Louisville are options) with greater access to Family Search Collections. Want to learn how?
- Tour the Center for Colorado History in Denver with its wonderful and varied exhibits
- The Erie Historical Society Museum at the Wise Family Farm only open May September on Saturdays so plan accordingly
- ❖ A road trip to Southeast Colorado historic sites Lamar and Granada (the Amache Internment Camp, Bent's Fort and the Madonna of the Trail)
- Local history tour Lafayette or Louisville
- ❖ Cemetery visits Riverside, Leadville, Freemont or the "forgotten" cemeteries of Boulder County
- ❖ A road trip to Dearfield, a national historic site and the largest settlement of African American homesteaders (about 30 miles east of Greeley)
- ❖ A road trip to Georgetown or another easily accessible mountain town AND
- (your idea here, but please share with Karen!)

Have you been to any of these places? Are you interested in going? We know you're out there – and would very much appreciate your help in making these events happen. Taking the lead on one of these events would

be a great opportunity to share your time and experience with us. We know you've got the "right stuff" to make this happen. Ready? Please be in touch with Karen at <u>vicepresident@broomfieldgensoc.org</u> and let us know you can give your Board a hand!

TREASURER, KIRK HAYER

Financial Position as of 31 Dec 2024	1	\$ 2,244.18
Projected Budget 2025	Income (based on current membership)	\$ 1,250.00
	Expenses (based on current planned expenditures)	<u>\$ 1,934.00</u>
	Net	(\$ 684.00)

MEMBERSHIP, CINDY ELGER

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent member survey! It helps us figure out best meeting times, days and places and gives us ideas about the kinds of programs and activities that you find interesting. Here's what you've told us:

- ✓ Preferred day/time for BGS Meetings 1) Thursday, 6-9 PM 2) Wednesday, either 1-5 (afternoon) or 6-9 (evening)
- ✓ Top 5 Choices for Types of Programs 1) Guest speaker on genealogy topics, 2) Advanced research techniques, 3) DNA and genetic genealogy, 4) Technology for genealogists, and 5) Workshops and hands-on activities
- ✓ Top 3 Choices for What Would Make You More Likely to Attend Meetings 1) no opinion, 2) More convenient times, and 3) More hands-on workshops.

Interested in the details? Results will be posted on the Society's website.

WEBMASTER, KIRK HAYER

As of January 2025, Mailchimp is no longer our email delivery system. Our emails will come to you directly from our BGS account.

QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

Continuing the wildly popular "Question of the Quarter" series, we asked our readers, *There is an old saying or maybe a curse*, "May you live in interesting time." Which of your ancestors would you say lived in the most interesting times?

THE WORST OF TIMES, THE BEST OF TIMES

Jacque Mahan

The Battle of Worcester, 3 September 1651, and was the last major battle of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. A Parliamentarian army of 28,000 under Oliver Cromwell defeated a largely Scottish Royalist force of 16,000 led by Charles II of England. About 10,000 Scots were taken prisoner and held in makeshift prison camps. Starved and clothed in rags, many died but those who lived were deported to New England, Bermuda, and the West Indies to work as indentured laborers

My Scottish ancestor, Daniel Robinson, fought in the battle and was captured. He was marched to London and confined at Tothill Field near Parliament House. There he was selected as one of the prisoners to be exiled to America. He was herded into the bowels of the ship and fastened in irons; conditions were inhumane. Daniel

¹ Sarah Robins Hoffman, The Exile of Daniel Robins to America in 1652. This book can be found at the FHL in Salt Lake (call number 929.273 A1 no.7815.

arrived in Boston in February of 1652. He was sold on the auction block to a New England planter, Nathaniel Foote of Connecticut.²

The work was hard, but Daniel's fate seemed to improve. He stayed on with the Foote family after his term of indenture. America was good for him, he did well. By 1668, Daniel had moved to Woodbridge, New Jersey with his wife Hope Potter and the couple had nine children with all the births recorded in the town's vital records. After Daniel Robinson settled in New Jersey he used the name Robins.

Charles Gordon a Scottish immigrant wrote the following letter from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, dated March 5, 1685, to Andrew Irvine a merchant of Edinburgh, Scotland,

I am just now drinking to one of them (the old Buckskin planters) our countrymen, who was sent away by Cromwell to New England; a slave from Dunbar, living now in Woodbridge like a Scots laird, wishes

his countrymen and his native soil well, though he never intends to see it.³

Scots have migrated all over the world and a project was completed in 2010 that brought together stories documenting the Scottish connections in more than 300 embroidered panels. The panel shown here depicts the prisoners of the Battle of Dunbar and Worcester being sold in New England.⁴

THE NEXT QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

The next Question of the Quarter of 2025 (and that's for May) will be: "If you could travel through time from when you lived to today, what advice would you give me?" Pick an ancestor – any ancestor – and share their advice.

Contact your editor at editor@broomfieldgensoc.org to share.



² <u>Daniel Robinson on the John and Sara Passenger List. Online at https://scottishprisonersofwar.com/daniell-robinson-scottish-pow-aka-daniel-robins</u>. (Accessed November 29, 2019).

³ Hoffman.

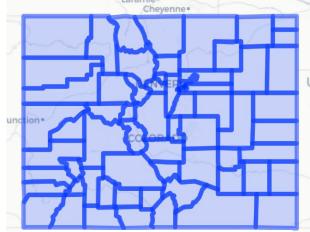
⁴ Scottish Diaspora. Online at http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org/index. (Accessed November 29, 2019).

FEATURED ARTICLE: WILL THE REAL BROOMFIELD PLEASE STAND UP?

By Gail Elias, Editor

This story started out as an easy little piece on Broomfield founders – you know Adolph Zang, the Churches, and a couple more. Easy as pie! The Broomfield Historical Society had a lovely article that listed a William Brown as an early homesteader. Leaving aside the fact that there are a lot of William Browns in the world, how hard could it possibly be to find the right William Brown?

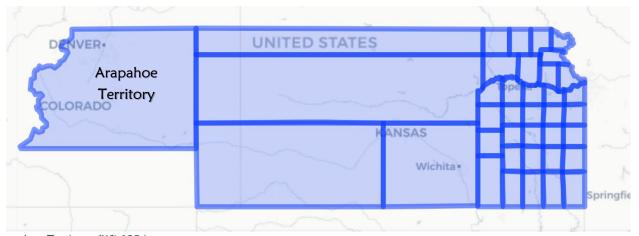
News flash! For anyone researching a lineage that passes through Broomfield before 2001 when the City of Broomfield (established 6 Jun 1961) became Colorado's newest county, the difficulty of census research, for example, multiplies. Why? Because Broomfield was in four different counties (Adams, Boulder, Jefferson and Weld). To make this even more complicated, before the City was established, much of Broomfield was in the unincorporated areas of the counties in question. A lot of searching but still do-able.



Colorado Counties (1994) – Newberry Atlas of Historical Boundaries

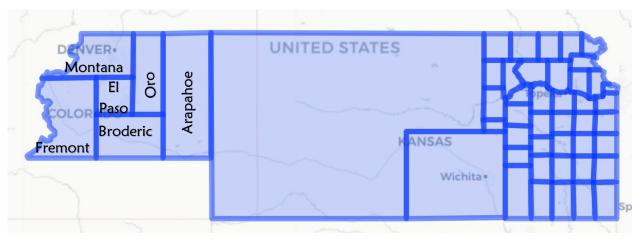


City and County of Broomfield (today) – City and County Mapping



Arapahoe Territory (KS) 1854

So – when did Broomfield's "founders" get here? Actually, there is considerable evidence that the Cheyenne and Arapahoe lived and regularly passed through "Broomfield" long before even the Spanish explorers poked around the Front Range. Much of the "Anglo" exploration of the area that will become Broomfield began with the Colorado Gold Rush (c 1858) and rapidly turned to farming and ranching when not everyone struck it rich. So – if you had family that were part of this westward migration, where would you begin to look for them?



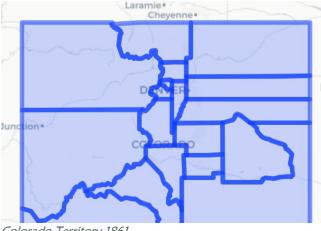
Montana, Fremont, El Paso, Broderick, Oro and Arapahoe Territories (KS) 1859

Things changed in 1859. Yikes! Broomfield then was in the Montana District and the names of what will become Colorado Counties – Fremont and El Paso – emerge along with Broderick and Oro which didn't last long. This lasted until 1861 when Kansas became a state, and its western boundary was established. Just long enough for Colorado to be part of Kansas in the 1860 Census.

In 1860, much of Colorado wasn't in Colorado at all. It was in Kansas. And it's worth noting that if your ancestors lived northeast of Denver, they were living in the Nebraska Territory. If they were living not too far west of Denver, they were in the Utah Territory. And if they were living in southern Colorado, you guessed it, they were in the New Mexico Territory.

In 1861, the Colorado Territory was created including Arapahoe, Boulder, Jefferson, and Weld areas. By 1870, when some of the first land patents in what will become Broomfield are filed, the structure of "local jurisdictions" are almost in place. It isn't until 1902 when Adams County was founded from Arapahoe that Broomfield's four counties can be found.

In genealogy, sometimes you have to know "place," before you can do much else. We typically use the census and land records to prove place. What works against us in Colorado and similar areas, is that we often look in the wrong place. The 1860 Census for the area that becomes Colorado is actually found in the records for



Colorado Territory 1861

Nebraska, Kansas, Utah and New Mexico. By 1870, a census of the Colorado Territory was completed, and Family Search has an indexed list of this document accessible online.

From 1870 until 1961, when the City was established, we face a very similar problem looking for Broomfield residents in the four counties which were ultimately combined to make the Broomfield we know today, making census research a bit more challenging. And since land records and probate documents are retained in the county in which they were originally filed, we get little help there. So, my fellow genealogists, as you trace your roots across our country to Colorado, consider that where you need to look for their paper trail, may not be in the place that today's map leads us to believe. And, unfortunately, Colorado is not the only example of this "where's Waldo" genealogy search. Happy hunting!

FEATURED STORY: THE GNADENHUTTEN MASSACRE

By Steve Lake



Memorial at the Site of the Massacre, courtesy Encyclopedia Britanica

The Gnadenhutten Massacre on March 8, 1782 was a very dark event in our early history, near the end of our Revolutionary War. After the surrender of Cornwallis, hostilities continued on the western frontier. Both the Americans and the British had exploited the Native warriors against each other for many years. Revenge and retaliation characterized one raid after another, often against non-combatants.

My Green family history records a gruesome legend that offers a "rest of the story" that follows the massacre. My 4th Great-grandmother, Rhuhama, was first married to Charles Bilderback. They had a son and a daughter and settled on the banks of the Ohio River on the Virginia side. Charles was a Captain in the militia of Washington County, Pennsylvania. This area was in dispute between Pennsylvania and Virginia before 1782, when more accurate surveys settled Washington County in favor of Pennsylvania and Ohio County as part of Virginia.

Most males on the frontier between the ages of 20 to 50 participated in the militia musters and rendezvous. Charles Bilderback was about 24 years old in 1782 and the Pennsylvania Archives list him on the Williamson Expedition. Natives had abducted a mother and children, and the settlers were rallied to try to find and free them. There was no official Militia call to rendezvous, but in spite of this, a call for volunteers gathered about 200 men. Estimates range from 160 to 400 men may have participated, so the magnitude of response indicates the level of hostility and frustration held by the white settlers. The man who was elected as Captain, David Williamson, held the rank of Lt. Colonel in other militia records and other officers were listed as privates. This is evidence that the Williamson Expedition was unofficial and there were also other attempts made to keep it secret following the atrocities.

The particular Native village, Gnadenhutten, where this massacre happened, had been founded by Moravian missionaries among the Lenape tribe. They were Native Christian pacifists who were self-proclaimed to be neutral in the War. Other Natives on both sides were antagonistic against them, spreading rumors and planting evidence that incriminated them against both the Americans and the British, so that neither side could trust them. On the behalf of the Moravians, they were guilty of passing information on to either side in hopes of averting more hostilities. When the Williamson Expedition arrived, the bloody clothing of recently captured victims was found and an apparent minority of the militia were in favor of executing the most likely perpetrators.

Because of the unsanctioned nature of this expedition, David Williamson did not have a strong position as elected Captain, besides which, chain of command was less strict on the frontier. It may have also been Williamson's nature to be less than a strong demanding commander. On a previous expedition to Gnadenhutten, the Natives who were captured and turned over to the fort commander, were later released and proceeded to raid the settlers again. Williamson was blamed for not executing those hostiles when they were in custody. When a vocal few militiamen decided that the whole village needed to be executed, Williamson was quoted as saying, "Do what you will with them," and walked away. It wasn't until years later, when a few participants gave their testimony on their pension applications, that the secret of this massacre became better known. Their general witness was that only a few did the killing, but most walked, and even ran, away when

they saw what was going to happen. Among the 96 executed Natives were a handful of hostile infiltrators, so the majority of innocents suffered for the few who were guilty. Two young boys survived by playing dead and one of them was adopted by a clergyman who had been in solidarity with the militia until he realized the injustice about to happen.



1 The Rescue Expedition of Charles Bilderback, courtesy of Steve Lake

Charles Bilderback was one of the few executioners. His years of fighting the Natives had probably built up his hatred to unjustified extremes. He was married to Ruhama Nichols about 1785 and they started a family. One day in about 1789. Rhuhama went with Charles and his brother, Jacob, to check on some cattle

they were pasturing on the other side of the Ohio River. They were surprised by Native warriors. Jacob escaped in their canoe and Rhuhama initially hid until Charles' captors convinced her to surrender. The party split, taking Ruhama to a Native village, where she remained for about nine months until her release was arranged. Charles was recognized by his red hair, and because his captors knew he had participated in the Gnadenhutten Massacre, they tortured him to death and scalped him.

Rhuhama was reunited with her two young children and a young man named John Green married her in 1791. Her new husband was a different kind of man than her first husband. John's father, Regnal Green, had many good encounters with Natives and they held him in high regard. John had worked for Ebenezer Zane in 1797 on the blazing of Zane's Trace through the former Native reserve that became the state of Ohio. John moved his entire family of brothers and sisters from Berkeley County, Virginia, into the heart of Ohio territory in 1799. Half of them settled in Fairfield County and the other half settled in Licking County and acquired land directly from the Native tribe called Raccoon Town, which later became Johnstown. Ruhama and John had eight children together. They loved the life on the frontier and would never have chosen a more sheltered or less adventurous life for their family.

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)

For more information visit the CCGS website here.

LONGMONT GENEALOGY SOCIETY

LGS has graciously invited BGS members to attend their special interest groups on zoom. There are three: 1) FamilySearch SIG, 2) NoCo DNA SIG, and 3) a general Genealogy Workshop. NoCO DNA Sig is planning a study of Roberta Estes book: "A Complete Guide to Family Tree DNA." This book has 11 chapters, and the current plan is to do a chapter each month. For more information on registering for the NoCo DNA SIG, please go to the LGS website at https://longmontgenealogicalsociety.org.

CONTACT US

BROOMFIELD GENEALOGY SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Treasurer Kirk Hayer <u>Treasurer@Broomfieldgensoc.org</u>

Secretary Jacque Mahan Secretary@Broomfieldgensoc.org

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Editor Gail Elias Editor@Broomfieldgensoc.org

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

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

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

Leaving aside Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, Groundhog Day and Superbowl Sunday, here's what we can celebrate in February!

February is National:

- ✓ Black History Month
- ✓ Humpback Whale Awareness

 Month
- ✓ Senior Independence Month and
- ✓ Snack Food Month

And on these days, we celebrate -

- 1 Feb Change Your Password Day
- 2 Feb Ukelele Day
- 3 Feb Feed the Birds Day
- 4 Feb Liberace Day
- 5 Feb Chocolate Fondue Day
- 6 Feb Lame Duck Day
- 7 Feb Wave All Your Fingers at Your

Neighbor Day

- 8 Feb Opera Day
- 9 Feb Develop Alternative Vices Day
- 10 Feb All the News that Fit to Print Day
- 11 Feb Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day

12 Feb – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

- 13 Feb Desperation Day
- 14 Feb Football Hangover Day
- 15 Feb Remember the USS Maine Day
- 16 Feb Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 17 Feb My Way Day
- 18 Feb Cow Milked While Flying in an

Airplane Day

- 19 Feb Tug-of-War Day
- 20 Feb Love Your Pet Day
- 21 Feb Sticky Bun Day
- 22 Feb George Washington Birthday
- 23 Feb Curling is Cool Day
- 24 Feb I Hate Coriander Day
- 25 Feb Clam Chowder Day
- 26 Feb Levi Strauss Day
- 27 Feb No Brainer Day
- 28 Feb Tooth Fairy Day