

COLORADO CHAPTER PALATINES TO AMERICA

CoPalAm 2026 Fall SEMINAR

3 October 2026 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

The Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America is pleased to announce that Gail Shaffer Blankenau, a professional genealogist, historian, speaker, and author who holds an MA degree in history from the University of Nebraska–Kearney and who received the 2023 James L. Sellers prize has accepted our invitation to be the speaker at our Fall Seminar October 3, 2026. Visit www.copalam.us for more details.

About Gail Blankenau:

Gail Blankenau is a professional genealogist, speaker and author, specializing in German genealogy, land records, and lineage research. As a professional, some of her recent client projects have taken her to Salt Lake City, Utah, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Missouri, as well as numerous projects in Nebraska. Her own roots are from almost every state east of the Mississippi.

In addition to private client research, Gail enjoys speaking and writing about genealogy. Her articles have appeared in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, The Genealogist, Everton's Genealogical Helper, The National Genealogical Society magazine, Family Chronicle, Internet Genealogy, The Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly and Nebraska Ancestry.

She was a research consultant for the award-winning book, *A Question of Freedom: The Families who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*, by William G. Thomas III. She also serves as the genealogist for the Nickerson Family Association on Cape Cod, a research consultant for the College of Arms in Great Britain (American lines) and as a board member for the Germanic Genealogy Society. She also serves on the Nebraska Historical Society advisory board for digitization of Nebraska newspapers.

Gail has written an award-winning nonfiction history entitled "Journey to Freedom: Uncovering the Grayson Sisters' Escape from Nebraska Territory" (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, Bison Books, 2024).

Gail's Planned Topics:

1. Power Combination: German Church Records and Farm Histories
2. Finding Family in Numbers: How to find and Navigate German Census Records
3. Finding your Germanic Home Village and Parish
4. Mountain Peaks and Trails: Your Swiss Ancestral Journey





CO-PAL-AM

Colorado Chapter, Palatines to America

Researching All German-Speaking Ancestors and Their Descendants

2026 FALL SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

The seminar will be a hybrid event.

A recording will be made available for 30 days to those who register.

In-person attendees who register by 7 September 2026 will be eligible to win lunch with Gail.

There will be lots of door prizes for both in-person and virtual attendees.

Registration is \$50 per person

In-person Presentation:

Highlands Ranch Senior Center
200 E. Highlands Ranch Parkway
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Virtual Presentation - via Zoom

An email with Zoom access details and handouts
will be sent to all attendees.

Register electronically using PayPal: go to <https://www.copalum.us/> and click on the seminar registration link.

Register by mail: complete the form below and mail it with your check payable to CoPalAm

Colorado Palatines
P.O. Box 51186
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

You will be sent an email confirmation when your registration form and payment are received.

NAME: 1) _____ MEMBER: YES___ NO___
(Last Name/First Name)

ADDRESS: _____
(City/State/Zip Code)

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

NAME: 2) _____ MEMBER: YES___ NO___
(Last Name/First Name)

ADDRESS: _____
(City/State/Zip Code)

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

Number of registrations _____ Number attending in person _____ Number attending virtually _____

Registration fees	Total Number Registering	Amount Each	Total Enclosed
_____	_____	\$50 per person	\$ _____

QUESTIONS or for membership info, contact Sandy Carter-Duff at registrar@copalum.us or call 303-478-0876.
QUESTIONS about the seminar, contact Jennifer Bigham at president@copalum.us or call/text 720-454-9297.