



**Eilene Lyon**  
*Author, Speaker, Family Historian*

## Forever "Back to School"



A fellow blogger recently asked what books we remember reading in the 1970s. I recalled a historical fiction series called "The Kent Family Chronicles" by John Jakes. I also read a lot of cop novels by Ed McBain and Joseph Wambaugh. The idea of joining a police force compelled me to get a degree in Law Enforcement. I said I had made a poor choice. Why? Because I'm not a real "people person" like the best cops should be.

But it really wasn't a bad choice. I learned many useful subjects in school and I learned a lot about myself when I worked in security at Kings Island amusement park (photo above). I went on to spend a year in a Wildlife Management program, then got a bachelor's degree in Accounting. More recently I got another bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Geographic Information Systems.

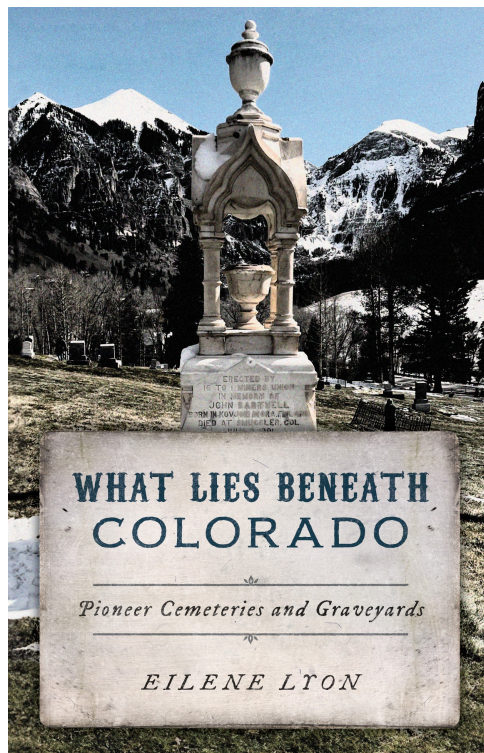
I still love history, nature, and even playing "detective," though I am a genealogical detective rather than solving crimes. Most of all, I realized that I love learning and have never stopped. I still take classes on a variety of subjects and share what I've learned through my books, presentations, and my blog.

It's never too late to learn. There's an infinite world of knowledge out there. Have fun exploring it!

*Eilene*

---

## Reviews and Event News



***What Lies Beneath Colorado* is Released!!**

***What Lies Beneath Colorado Pioneer Cemeteries and Graveyards*** is now available wherever you buy books. You can order a signed copy from [Maria's Bookshop](#) in Durango. (When you place an order with them, be sure to tell them you want a signed copy.)

**WLB** explores the hidden personal trials and triumphs discovered in Colorado's oldest cemeteries, bringing the history of the state to life. Covering the entire state by region, the stories cover Spanish conquest, Native American history, the gold rush, community development, homesteading and ranching, love and loss, conflict and resolution, and scandal and honor.

### Upcoming Events

**Book release event:** Animas Museum, Durango, Colorado. October 26, 2024 at 1 p.m. I will give a presentation about *What Lies Beneath* and sign books.

**Life Long Learning:** Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. October 31, 2024 at 7 p.m. I will be giving a presentation: "*The Price of Pacifism: Philadelphia Quakers in the Revolution.*"

In January, I will be giving a Zoom presentation on using diaries, letters and memoirs in your family history writing. Details to come in my next newsletter.

**Book release event:** The Bookworm of Edwards (Colorado). January 30, 2025 at 6 p.m. I will give a presentation about WLB and both my books will be available for sale.

---

## Writing and Thinking



Many [well-known writers](#) have expressed some version of the statement, “How will I know what I think until I see what I say.” Or more simply: “I write to know what I think.” One habit I picked up from Julia Cameron’s *The Artist’s Way* is writing morning pages. My goal is three pages in a steno pad, but sometimes the result is two or one...or none.

Before putting pen to paper, I read The Morning email from the New York Times and a few articles from various sources, plus poetry and fiction. (Lately I read less news, because I’m boycotting all the political crazy-making stuff.) I may have some festering issue, or use a WordPress prompt, or some conversation starter cards. The seed can come from anywhere.

What astonishes me is that after a page or so, some interesting connections pop into my head that simply hadn’t occurred through ordinary mental rumination. The motion of my hand and flow of ink bring me gifts from the ether. Writing on a computer is less likely to produce the magic.

I’ll admit that most of what I jot amounts to nothing more than a brain dump. But some jewels appear that may require nothing more than a bit of polish.

---

## Popular Blog Posts This Quarter on Myricopia.com



## The Pines



## Parrish Skies



## Shameless Self-Promotion

---

## Something New



Have you ever let a hobby or passion slip away? I used to be passionate about botany, but my membership in the Colorado Native Plant Society lapsed and I got distracted by many other things.

Thanks to a friend, I rejoined the Society and went on a couple of their plant trips this summer. I plan to lead two plant walks next summer, sparking a renewed interest in my neighborhood flora.

Amazingly, every day that I go looking for new-to-me plants, I find them. I have many plant keys (a series of description questions) that I use to identify them, but some, such as this obscure little gentian, defy the process.

Yep, I've been using A.I. Taking a good clear photograph with my iPhone, then tapping on the circled "i" button below the photo has taken me to the correct genus several times. I still have to confirm the identification, but it saves me hours of frustration.

**Have you let a passion or hobby drift away? What would rekindle your interest? Teaching a class, perhaps?**

---

## Share the news

If you enjoy this newsletter, please send it on to a friend. If you've received this from a friend you can [subscribe](#).

### Photo Credits

Kings Island Security (by unknown): I am in the front row next to the plain clothes red-haired man. c. 1981

Pen and paper: Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

730 N. Rainbow Rd.

Durango, CO 81303

You received this email because you signed up on  
my website or are one of my personal contacts.

[Unsubscribe](#)

