



# CHEYENNE GENEALOGY JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHEYENNE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4, Issue 5

August 2008

## Past President's Message

By: Sue Seniawski

Hi Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society members,

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I want to thank the board members for their hard work, dedication, and selflessness over the past two years, and to thank all the members who volunteered their time and talent for the meetings and projects we undertook the last two years, and to thank all the members who made these past two years so rewarding and so much fun for me. I had a wonderful time; I couldn't have done it without you.

And a Special Thank You to the Society membership for their confidence in me, by electing me to serve as President for the past two years.

Sue



## Thank You From The Editor

Thank you to all of the Society members for their prayers, thoughts and kind messages for me and my family during our loss. This newsletter will be rather short but I will be compiling articles for coming issues. If you would like to contribute an item of interest please e-mail me at

[WADE\\_27043@msn.com](mailto:WADE_27043@msn.com).

Remember the next regular meeting of the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society will be September 9<sup>th</sup> in the Willow Room of the Laramie County. The topic of the meeting will be 'Summer Research'. Please feel free to bring a copy or a book of your research to share with other members.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please remember to pay your 2008-2009 membership dues.



## Historical Tidbits

*Copied from Cheyenne, Wyoming Newspaper*

*Dated October 13, 1934*

*Submitted by Bert Budd*

In his book, "How We built the Union Pacific" General Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer for the road during its construction, gives a graphic account of how he named the city of Cheyenne.

General Dodge describes how the Union Pacific was forced to exert drastic means to clear up many of the plague spots along the line because of the adventurers and desperate characters who congregated along the line and followed the progress of the railroad construction. How he called in troops from nearby Fort D. A. Russell to clean up Cheyenne in the winter of 1867-68 is told by General Dodge:

..... We had as escort two companies of cavalry and two of infantry under the command of Lt. Col. J. K. Mizner, who had with him Lt. J. W. Wheelan, and Dr. Henry B. Terry, assistant surgeon, U. S. army.

'We started out the first of June and went to the end of the track, which was then at North Platte, then up the Lodge Pole to the east base of the Black Hills, where we were joined by Gen. C. C. Auger, who was then in command of that department with his staff. General Auger's instructions were to locate a military post where I located the end of the division, at the east base of the mountains, and after a thorough examination of the country, I located the division point on Crow Creek, where Cheyenne now stands and named it Cheyenne, and General Auger immediately located just north of the town the military post of D. A. Russell.'

..... regarding the settlement of Cheyenne when the railroad was being built, General Dodge says this:

'In the winter of 1867-68 the end of the track was at Cheyenne. During the winter there had assembled there a very large number of people: Possibly it was the greatest gambling place ever established on the plains, and it was full of desperate characters. The town of Cheyenne we had claimed, laid out and leased the lots to the occupants, and we organized the local government. There was no title to be obtained to the town, but we treated this as all towns, claiming it for the company, laying it out into town lots and not allowing any one to locate there without taking an agreement from us allowing them to occupy it and agreeing to deed it to them when we got title.

'There had been established there by the government Fort D. A. Russell, some two or three miles north of the railroad track and there was in command Gen. J. D. Stevenson, who had served with me during the Civil War. In my absence these desperate characters got together, held a meeting and jumped the town, refusing to recognize the authorities we had put over the town or in any way to comply with our orders.'

'They had commenced robbing our train men and committing other depredations that I knew we must stop or lose control of the railroad forces at the end of the track. I immediately wired General Stevenson, calling his attention to the condition of affairs and asking him to use his troops to bring about order and a recognition of our authority, and while we had no legal right in the matter he turned out his troops as skirmishers and drove every citizen in the town to a mile or so south of the tracks and then held a parley with them.'

'He told them until they were ready to comply with the orders and recognize the authority of the railroad company they should not go back to their property: That really the land belonged to the United States and the railroad was occupying under government charter. This brought them immediately to terms and they immediately made peace, and were allowed to come back to the town and we afterwards had no trouble with them.'



This photo was forwarded by our member Bob Larson with this note:

*'I came across this c. 1940's picture in a junk shop. Thought I'd pass it on to your area.  
Happy sleuthing, Bev Graf, Atlanta, Cass Co., Texas'*

## Lakeview Cemetery Living History Walk

A big Thank You to everyone who attended the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society's Cemetery Walk during Frontier Days.. Once again the weather cooperated and almost 200 people gathered to hear the historical stories of some of Wyoming famous individuals. The Society gives credit to Sharon Field for the success of this event.

You missed it? – Mark your calendars for next year – the last Friday of Frontier Days right after the Pancake Breakfast.

## Websites that may be Helpful in your Research

*These web addresses can be copied and pasted into your browser to access these web sites.*

*The Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society only includes information for these web sites and makes no endorsements for information, terms of use or properties found on these sites. The Editor.*

Have you looked at <http://www.findagrave.com/>?

I looked at this site a long time ago and thought "nice idea," but then early this summer I again checked it out and was really excited about what I found. "Findagrave" is going to be my next year's project.

At Findagrave, check out famous people especially Nellie Tayloe Ross and see what has been added to the site. I just knew my German-Russian ancestors buried in Billings, Montana, would not be there along with several others I checked. Guess what! Many were there. What is great about the site is they are not only adding the tombstone picture with typed data, but also they are adding a live picture, a photo of the cemetery, and a history of the person. You can even put a flower on the grave and leave a special memory story with the flower. Check out my ancestor by putting Jacob Kraft (Montana) in the search blanks. I have this photo from years ago and the one on this site is better. Some other good examples are Alpheus Harmon, Nathaniel Harmon, and Mary Alzina Sperry Harmon or any added by Cheryl Bills. Some names are added to cemeteries without pictures with the anticipation of someone adding a photo later.

I now want to add the histories and "live photos" for my family members plus the photos of tombstones. This week while I was in Lusk, Wyoming, I took digital photos of the cemetery name, which is "Lusk Cemetery," along with my husband's ancestors' tombstones, so I want to write histories and add "live photos" of each of them too. People have added one tombstone photo at a time and others have added entire cemeteries. I want to suggest next year our society do this for Lakeview as a project. We could have a picnic while we each take digital photos of a section until we have taken all the

tombstone pictures in the cemetery. I put my name in the site as a person who would be willing to take photos requested by others, and I have had three requests so far for Lakeview Cemetery.

Only a few in my immediate family are a "little interested" in my genealogy passion, and I am wondering what is going to happen to all my photos, data, etc. Findagrave has given me a outlet for all the information that does not fit the new project by the LDS Church, that is in beta testing now, which will include all data, history, photos, videos, documents and mementos for each of our ancestors. (I gave a program on this earlier this year at the library.)

Would really like to hear what you think about findagrave, so email me at [lsimpson@wyoming.com](mailto:lsimpson@wyoming.com).

Lucy Simpson

## New Articles in our Library and in Periodicals

### Ancestry – May/June 2008

- *Getting Free Dirt on Their Hands*  
Learn what it took for a family to make it as American Homesteaders.

### Family Tree Magazine - July 2008

- *Recharge Your Research*  
Don't let dead ends drain your genealogical batteries. Jump-start your ancestor hunt with these 12 research boosters.
- State Research Guides for Ohio and Florida

### Family Tree Magazine – 2008

- *Probing Into Probate*  
Your ancestors bequeathed you a genealogical windfall in their wills and probate records. Follow these six steps to claim your inheritance.
- State Research Guides for Maryland and Oklahoma
- *Family Tree Magazine's 101 Best Web Sites for 2008.*
- *Hungarian Heritage*  
An article on Hungarian research which includes Web Sites, Resources and Organizations, a Map of Hungary in 1867 and a Timeline from the 800s to 2004.

### American Heritage – Spring/Summer 2008

- *How the West was Won* by: James P. Ronda  
Railroads changed – and defined – the complexion of the American West almost overnight.

## Computer Interest Group

By: Leslie Vosler

### GENEALOGY COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

Hi All -

WHEN? – 2 October 2008

WHERE? - The Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Avenue, in the Windflower Room (3rd floor)

WHAT? - Another one of our newest members, Linda Lipe does digital photo archiving and possibly will do a program on it for us.

- Bring your LAPTOP (if you have one and want to do so)
- Plus bring your questions and problems, solutions and suggestions, "new stuff" and "old stuff," and ideas for the next programs.
- Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

NEXT? - Mark your calendar for 6 November, 2008 which will be the date for the following month's CIG meeting, in the Windflower Room (3rd floor).

FUTURE? – 4 December, 2008

Laramie County Library  
2200 Pioneer Avenue  
Time: about 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

If you have questions contact Leslie Vosler  
[LVosler@bresnan.net](mailto:LVosler@bresnan.net) or (307) 635-5892

## Calendar of Coming Events

### Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society

Tuesday September 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held in the Willow Room of the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne.

The topic of the meeting will be 'Summer Research'. Please feel free to bring a copy or a book of your research to share with other members.

**Albany County Genealogical Society**

Tuesday – September 9th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.  
At the First United Methodist Church in Laramie.

Program will be about the Kiwanis Ranch Tour program in Albany County.

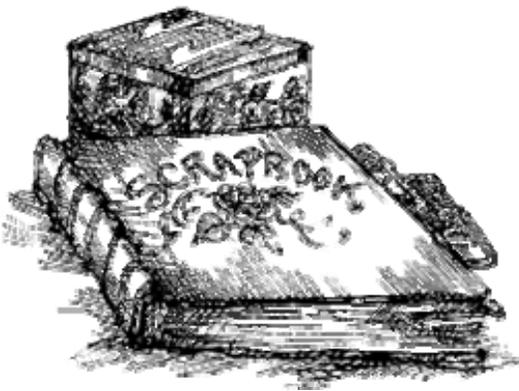
October 14 is our annual banquet.

**Larimer County Genealogical Society (LCGS)**

General Meeting. August 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Harmony Public Library, Community Room, 4616 South Shields Street, Fort Collins

Program: "Preserving Family Treasures: Identification and Care of Historic Documents and Photographs"

Speaker: Kate Legg - Project Archivist for the University Historic Photograph Collection at the CSU Archives.



**Current Officers of  
Cheyenne Genealogical and  
Historical Society**

- President - Denise Ehrensberger 307-640-1134
- Vice President - Van Mellblom 307-632-0128
- Secretary - Wendy Douglas 307-632-2533
- Treasurer - Bert Budd 307-632-8256
- Past President - Sue Seniawski 307-638-6519

**NEED INK?**

Free EPSON ink; all colors; use in EPSON Stylus Photo printers:

- R200 / R220
- R300 / R320
- R340 / RX500
- RX600 / RX620

Contact: Leslie Vosler at:  
3924 Bevans Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82001-1874 USA  
hm: (307) 635-5892 fax: (307) 637-2893  
cell: (307) 630-8864  
LVosler@bresnan.net

If you have suggestions for newsletter or areas of interest you would like to share please contact me at [WADE\\_27043@msn.com](mailto:WADE_27043@msn.com) or 307-638-3877.

If you have research questions the genealogy volunteers at the library will be happy to take your calls and offer suggestions. Please come by or call 307-634-3561.

Please remember your membership dues should be paid before August 31<sup>st</sup> to insure that your name is included in the Genealogical Society's Directory.

**You can mail your dues to the genealogical society at our**

**NEW ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 2539,  
Cheyenne, WY 82003-2539**

