



CHEYENNE GENEALOGY JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHEYENNE GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Special Summer Issue

June 2007

Hello

*to all of the members of the Cheyenne
Genealogical and Historical Society.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank
Ed Galavotti for all of his hard work on the
prior newsletters. What a Great Job he has
done!*

*For those who don't know me; please let me
introduce myself - My name is Wanda Wade,
the new Editor of the newsletter. I have been
researching information about my family for
about 10 years and I am enthusiastic about
genealogical and historical research. In the
coming months I hope this newsletter will help
you*

- *solve some of your research
problems,*
- *find new interests in genealogy,*
- *offer a way for you to become an
active part of our Society*
- *and become a voice for your advice to
other researchers.*

*The newsletter is taking a little different format
and will be e-mailed in a PDF format. 'Thank
you' to everyone who took time to answer my
e-mails when I was testing the PDF format
and my e-mail address book.*

*This is a Special Summer Issue that contains
some topics that I hope will be of interest to
you.*

*If you have special requests for information or
suggestions for articles please contact me at
the following e-mail address:
WADE_27043@msn.com*

Sharon Lass Field
2007 inductee into the
Ruth C. Bishop Volunteer Hall of
Honor

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) has chosen Sharon Lass Field as the 2007 inductee into the Ruth C. Bishop Volunteer Hall of Honor. The Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society nominated Sharon for this honor.

The Ruth C. Bishop Family History Volunteer Hall of Honor is the most prestigious annual award recognizing volunteers in the genealogical community. The criteria for choosing the winner is based solely on the amount and type of volunteer service rendered.

Sharon will receive a registration to the FGS conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana August 15-18, five (5) complimentary hotel nights (Tuesday through Saturday) at the conference hotel, airfare to the conference, and a ticket to the FGS banquet. Sharon will also merit a cash award of \$1,000, donated on her behalf, to the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society.

Sharon joined the Cheyenne Genealogical Society in 1968, serving as president from 1974 to 1976. She was instrumental in moving the genealogy collection from the Wyoming State Library to the Laramie County Library. In addition she was on the Society committee to design and build the glass wall enclosing the genealogy collection.

Sharon's real passion, however, is improving the genealogy collection. She has served as chairman of the acquisition committee of the Society since 1972. Even when she goes on vacation, she scouts local bookstores for genealogy and western history books. She's donated several dozen books over the years.

Sharon has been a Society volunteer in the genealogy room at the library since 1972. She has contributed over 10,500 hours helping people find their ancestors. Along those lines, Sharon taught beginning and intermediate genealogy classes through Laramie County Community College for 10 years. Many of us owe our success in researching our family histories directly to her.

For over 10 years Sharon led a cemetery walk through Lakeview Cemetery. She did the research on each gravesite that would show the crowd something unique about the well known and rich, and the everyday and infamous persons that reside there. Three years ago, the Society asked Sharon to rewrite the script to include members of the society portraying those residents. Sharon rewrote the script and the Society presents the "*Living History Cemetery Walk*" at the cemetery during Frontier Days.

Sharon has been called a "fierce defender" of the genealogy collection and resources. When the society learned in 1997 that the Wyoming legislature was considering a bill to digitize documents and destroy the originals, Sharon and 3 other Society members compiled a notebook of "horror stories" about the destruction of original records for each member of the senate committee studying the issue. The bill did not make it out of committee.

Since 1955 Naturalization records have been open to the public, but the Wyoming county clerks of court were not allowing access. Sharon took it upon herself to rectify this. It took her 8 years of phone calls and letters to find the documentation that allowed public access to naturalization records. Sharon requested and received a copy of that documentation, and subsequently sent a copy to every clerk of court in the state.

When Sharon discovered the Laramie County clerk of court office had no records of any naturalizations being filed in their offices, she knew this had to be in error. She relentlessly looked until she found a very old flip-card index in the back of the courthouse with "naturalizations" imprinted on it. The current clerks didn't know how to use this index as it referred to district court journals. They maintained their office didn't keep records like that. Sharon went to the Wyoming State Archives, located the microfilm of the journals and made copies to prove her point. Sadly, in Laramie County, most of the declarations, petitions and applications were destroyed. The index cards have been microfilmed and the original cards are now housed in an archival-safe box at the Wyoming State Archives.

A former Laramie County librarian ordered the books in the Mary J. Carpenter Collection of Western Americana the collection be inventoried and many of the books sold on a "ten cents" table, or added to the circulating collection. Many eager collectors snatched up those priceless books. Sharon and Ellen Mueller protested to the librarian and the final result was the collection being moved into the genealogy department where the genealogy volunteers could keep a watchful eye on them.

Sharon and Ellen Mueller became known as the "grave ladies of Wyoming" because of their efforts to record graves and cemeteries in Wyoming. Sharon says she spent so much time in cemeteries that her two children thought it was perfectly ordinary to take a picnic to a cemetery and watch Mom write down information on tombstones. Sharon also read hundreds of trail diaries recording any names, dates, and approximate location of burials that occurred on the many trails that cross Wyoming. Ellen has retired, and Sharon will donate her hundreds of files when she completes a database and index. This work has spanned over 40 years, taken thousands of hours and is still ongoing.

Sharon is a published author. She wrote *Fort Fetterman's Cemetery* researching and documenting the burials there and *History of*

Cheyenne. During the two full years it took her to compile and edit the book, she had to suspend her own family history research.

Sharon is frequently asked to speak at the CGHS meetings and around the area. She has amassed a large repertoire of informative and entertaining topics. We always look forward to one of Sharon's presentations.

*Sue Seniawski, President
Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society*

Congratulations Sharon !

Taking a Research Trip

For many of us summer is a time when we can travel and search for information about the lives of our ancestors. My husband and I just returned in early May from this type of a trip. The trip was very productive and even though I thought I was well prepared I could have done a better job in the planning. I knew which families I wanted to research and I knew which areas to look in but, timing is the most important thing when you are taking a 'road trip' to do research.

I would suggest that you make copies of maps of the specific areas where your ancestors lived. Make the copy large enough that it is easy to read. Locate and mark all of the historical societies, libraries, museums and cemeteries in the general area. Before you start your trip call the libraries, historical societies and museums to determine their days and hours of operation. Some of the on-line information is not up to date so it is worth the time to call. Keep a note of the names of people you visit with so you may be able to locate them when you arrive at the location.

Allow enough time for your research and sight seeing. Remember even with cemetery maps it is difficult to locate burial sites so leave extra time to walk through cemeteries. I walked and retraced my path through a cemetery 5 times in a driving rain storm,

before I found the headstones I was looking for.

Ask if you can share copies of your research with the other societies that you visit. Your work may help someone else find that missing link.

Most of all if you are doing research in small rural areas, remember motels and restaurants can be few and far between so, plan ahead.

Our trip was great but, we ran out of time and in the fall perhaps we can go back and finish the search to find the family.

The following article from Ancestry.com has some good pointers. *By: Wanda Wade*

Planning a Research Trip

Whenever I go to a library or archives to do research, I have a hard time planning and organizing what I need to take with me. How can I organize my research information to make my research trips more productive?

I think every researcher has run into this problem at one time or another. We either overload ourselves with so much information, that we waste precious research time paging through notes looking for that death date from Grandpa Moses, or we don't bring enough information. This can mean that we miss out on an opportunity to search a particular resource because that one crucial piece of information is sitting at home in your other Smith folder. Poor organization on a research trip may also cause us to duplicate work already done on previous trips.

The key to any successful research trip is good preparation (that and a little old fashioned good luck!). Here are some tips to help you get the most from your research time:

- Call ahead or visit the website to check on hours, and restrictions. Do you need an appointment? What can you bring in with you? Some facilities will not allow coats, bags, or cases inside. Make sure you have everything organized so that your reference material can be conveniently pulled out and carried in separately.
- First do a little background research on the facility you will be visiting. What kind of resources do they have available? If they have an online catalog that you can access at home from your computer, do so. Find the resources you will be needing and write down complete bibliographic citations. This can save you time searching the catalog at the facility. If you don't have access to a computer, call and ask about the scope of the collections. Some libraries will send descriptions of their collections upon request.
- Always bring exact change for machines, pencils (some facilities do not allow pens), and paper for taking notes.
- Now that you know what is available, make a "wish list." You might want to put it in a research log format so that you have a record of what resources you have already checked for your next trip. If this is a rare outing, you may want to make sure that items that can be requested via correspondence or checked in a local facility towards the bottom in case you run short of time. Also be sure to bring some blank pages for any new additions to the collection that you didn't count on and maybe hadn't been added to the catalog yet. As you go along be sure to check off what you have done, and when you get home transfer the items missed to another sheet so you'll have a head start on your next trip.
- Start a "Genealogy To-Go" notebook. Make up duplicate family group sheets, timelines, pedigree charts, copies of original records, etc. and put them all in a notebook separate from your originals. As you plan your trip,

go through and take the ones you'll need. This way you don't have to worry about misplacing valuable original documents. Timelines and pedigree charts with dates and places included will take up less space than bringing individual pieces of information.

- Be kind to your librarians and archivists. These wonderful people are a family historian's best friend. Patience and good manners will go a long way and one genealogist's bad manners may ruin the next the chances of the next.

These are just a few ideas. Experiment until you find a system that suits your research style. You will find that the more trips you go on, the easier it will be.

Ancestry Daily News 2/9/1999 - [Archive](#)

<p style="text-align: center;">Websites that may be Helpful in your Research</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>These web addresses can be copied and pasted into your browser to access these web sites.</i></p>

Immigration Annexation

MyFamily.com has expanded its immigration records collection on Ancestry.com to include all readily available US passenger lists from 1820 through 1960, covering more that 100 ports of arrival and 100 million names.

Stay Informed

Get biweekly updates on the genealogy world with *Family Tree Magazine's* free biweekly Email Update newsletter.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/enews>

Finding Genealogical and Historical Societies

Directories of Genealogical and Historical Societies are listed in Everton's Genealogical Helper.

Improving PERSI

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) has been updated to include nearly 2 million citations from more than 6,500 genealogy and history periodicals published since 1800 in the United States, Canada and abroad. You can search PERSI through the library-only service HeritageQuest Online. Ask any genealogy volunteer for information to access these records.

Texas Obituaries

The McKinney Democrat and McKinney Courier Gazette are the two primary newspapers of McKinney, Texas since about 1884. Our volunteers have been indexing the obituaries in these newspapers and we have been printing them by decade. We have now combined 1884-1989 into one Excel Document with each decade as a separate page. It has been converted to pdf format and is available to all through a link on our web site. If anyone needs an obituary from this list just send us the request by email or snail mail and we'll get it right out to you. There is no charge for this service.

<http://www.mckinneypubliclibrary.org>

From that page click on the genealogy button then scroll down and click on genealogy links.

History WWII

If you have ancestors who served in WWII this information could be useful to you.

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) News Release - Service members Missing From WWII Now Listed In Electronic Database.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=10965>

To view the Buried at Sea Personnel click on the button below . [on the web page linked above.]

http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/WWII_MIA/SEA_MIA.N.HTM

New Articles in our Library Periodicals

Those warm summer afternoons are a good time to catch up on your reading. So grab a glass of cold lemonade and read one of these articles:

From - Family Tree Magazine
February, 2007, Volume 8, Issue 1

Page 26 - *Early Adopters* Don't assume an adopted or orphaned ancestor is a research dead end. These 11 tricks can help you break through the brick wall.

By Clark Kidder with Allison Stacy

Page 48 - *Heir Time* You've inherited the family archives – now what? We present practical solutions for sorting and storing inherited 'heirlooms' (including what you can toss).

By Fern Glazer

From - Family Tree Magazine
May, 2007, Volume 8, Issue 2

Page 8 - *Branching Out* Did your ancestor serve under Adolf Hitler? Did you know that every young man that joined the Schutzstaffel had to prove their genetic Aryan ancestry? When World War II ended, the American forces apparently seized the Third Reich records and files, took them to Berlin and microfilmed them. These records were filed with the NARA and only just "rediscovered" in 2003.

By Diane Haddad

From - New England Ancestors
Winter 2007 – Volume 8, No 1

Page 21 - Investigating a Family Legend with Twenty-first Century Tools: the Search for the Indian in my Lineage.

By Michael J. Leclerc

From - New England Ancestors
Winter 2007 – Volume 8, No 1

Page 34 – Irish Online Mapping System: A Genealogist's Pot of Gold. *"This mapping system may well revolutionize the way many Irish-Americans piece together their family history"*.

By Michael P. Quinlin

From - Everton's Genealogical Helper
January/February 2007

Page 58 – *Scandinavia Questions & Answers*
How to use the Norwegian Naming System to your advantage.

By Margaret Moen

From - Everton's Genealogical Helper
March/April 2007

Locating the Image of Your Family's Immigrant Ship Jeff details where to find the photograph or painting of the ship on which your ancestor arrived in the new world.

By Jeff Brockman

National and Statewide Name Lists of the Civil War Era, 1861 – 1869, Part 4 Bill continues his series on the best sources for finding people during the Civil War period. Part four will start with Indiana.

By William Dollarhide

From - Smithsonian
May, 2007

Page 49 - *Beyond Jamestown* After the colony was founded, 400 years ago this month, Capt. John Smith set out to explore the riches of Chesapeake Bay. With Smith's journals to guide him a modern-day sailor retraces the historic voyage.

By Terence Smith.

You can read this article on Smithsonian's web site at Smithsonian.com

New Additions to the Library's Genealogy and Family History Collection

The 2006-2007 Acquisitions Committee of the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society reported that 150 books had been acquired and donated to The Laramie County Library during 2006-2007. Since 1952 the Society has donated 2,065 books to the department for research purposes.

Memory Books have been donated in the memory of the following members, relations, or genealogy friends of the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society:

Charles B. Terrell: 1928-2006 A genealogy room volunteer and friend of genealogy

Claire O'Rouke: 1922-2006 Mother of Teri Rehurek

Patricia G. Stump: 1938-2006 Past President of the Society

Martha Thompson, former member

Howard M. Mellblom: 1923-2006 husband of Van Mellblom, member of the Society

Richard Schafer: 1927-2006 member of the Society

Do you have some free time during the week?
Do you like to help people?
Do you enjoy doing research?
If so, contact Sue Seniawski or Elaine Hayes about becoming a volunteer.

Computer Interest Group

Hi All,

Just an 'FYI' in case you missed the May CIG meeting:

The next meeting of the Genealogy Computer Interest Group will not be till November, due to the closing of the old, and the opening of the new library, plus time conflicts for many of the attendees:

WHEN - Probably the 1st Thursday of the month, 1 Nov 2007, at about 6:30 p.m. We will let you know when we know for sure!

WHERE - The NEW Laramie County Library, located at 2200 Pioneer Avenue (near The Egg and I Restaurant). The room to be announced.

WHAT - 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'

If you have any desires for programs for the coming year please let us know .

If you have questions, contact
Leslie Vosler
hm: (307) 635-5892
fax: (307) 637-2893
cell: (307) 630-8864

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting for the year, 2007!

**Please remember your membership dues are due for the coming year. You can mail your check to the genealogical society at our NEW ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2539, Cheyenne, WY 82003-2539**

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Hi everybody,

The Albany County Genealogical Society
Community Meeting - Tuesday, June 12

The Albany County Genealogical Society welcomes all interested persons to attend their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Wesley dining room in the First United Methodist Church, 1215 E. Gibbon, east entrance. Mark Stayton, Department of Molecular Biology, will discuss the genealogical information that is available through the study of DNA patterns.

Hostess for the evening is Jackie Meranda
See you there!!
Leroy

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Larimer County Genealogical Society

Location: Fort Collins Harmony Library
Community Room
6:30 p.m.

Program: "An Obituary Obsession"
Presented by Cari Taplin

Friday July 27, 2007

Living History Cemetery Walk
at
Lakeview Cemetery
9:30 a.m.

The Laramie County Library will be closed from July 31 until September 8th to move into the new building.