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October Family History Month Cheyenne's Celebration

By: Wendy Douglass

A day-long program in celebration of Family History Month was held in Cheyenne on Saturday, Oct. 15th to increase interest in genealogy and family history opportunities. The event sponsored by the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society in cooperation with the Laramie County Library attracted about 40 people including participants, vendors, CGHS and Library volunteers and featured speakers.

The program, which ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., was designed to interest those yearning to know more about their ancestors, new genealogists with blossoming interest in family history, as well as researchers who could benefit from resources to get questions answered or renew interest in their own family history research. The day-long selection of workshops held throughout the Library included

"Introduction to Genealogy and Library Resources," by Elaine Hayes, LCL Family History Librarian

"Searching Cemetery and Courthouse Records," by Sharon Field

"Getting Started in Family History: Individual Assistance & Questions Answered," by Leslie Vosler and Paul Smith

"Searching for a Soldier—Understanding Military Records," by Elaine Hayes

"Using Family Search," by Gloria Milmont

"Family Movies on Parade," by Bill Lindstrom

Individual research was available in the Family History Room with assistance from genealogy volunteers.

Exhibitors included CGHS, Creative Memories, DAR/SAR, Digital Memories, and Life's Journey Scrapbooking.

Some highlight notes from the sessions:

--"The Handybook for Genealogists" shows where each state's records are kept, the dates they started keeping certain records and addresses of the repositories in each state.

--Marriage records are usually kept in order of the alphabet, but not necessarily in alphabetical order - for example, under "M," an "Ma" may follow an "Mi" --so be sure to look through the whole list of the surname letter you need.

--To become a citizen, an immigrant first filed a "declaration of intent,"—an intent to declare allegiance to the United States rather than the country he left—these documents are the best places to get accurate dates. Only the male's record was filed because the wife and any children were automatically included with the husband.

--Land patent records are available on the U.S. Bureau of Land Management website; the original of these records often had proof of citizenship attached because in order to become a homesteader (own land) or vote, immigrants had to become citizens.

--Whenever writing to a county or courthouse for a probate record, be sure to ask for a Testate or Intestate Record—which have more information than just a will; in these records, every relative had to be listed along with where they lived.

--Revolutionary War Records include three types of records—pension applications, bounty-land warrant applications and military service records. These have been indexed and microfilmed and are available at the National Archives and their regional branches (including Denver), and the LDS Family History Library (or through familysearch.org). Heritage Quest and Ancestry Library Edition may also have Revolutionary War Pension File information.

--Civil War Records are available through the National Archives (Civil War Pension Index for Union soldiers only); pensions were granted to Confederate veterans and their widows and minor children by the states and are usually in the state archives. The Civil War Pension Index (through Ancestry) and the Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS online) are good places to start looking for Civil War soldiers.

Thanks to all who participated and attended. Plans are being made to repeat this event next October so please make your suggestions and volunteer help the Society celebrate Family History Month.

If you have questions about any of the exhibitors, please contact Wendy Douglass.

Members Comments About the Family History Event

Going to an event like this for the first time; was an education for me. I like the idea of having to go to different rooms because there was something for each person's interest. You can go the room that interest you the most and not have to set through subjects you didn't want to hear. I was most interested in the idea to have a grave kit for going grave hunting. When I went to Kentucky and Illinois there was two of us but all we had was our camera and some of the pictures didn't turn out very well---dark colors, shadows etc. The next time we go, I will have a kit with me.

In the Special Collections room, I received a lot of help with the research I was doing. The volunteers helped me with the steps I needed to go through to find a relative. I didn't find him but the process was great and the volunteers were very knowledgeable. I would like to have this again next year.

Virginia

The Family History Day went quite well for a first time event. I came to help out by passing our Handouts or whatever was needed. In the process I got to hear some very good programs, and went home with some information that I'm sure I will be using.

We can make next year's Family History Day better by beginning work on it soon after the beginning of the New Year. That way we will be able to get our advertising out much sooner, giving more people the opportunity come and enjoy everything.

Marge Dreiling



The Elisha Alden Group

By: Bert Budd

My wife wanted me to find her connection with John Alden and Priscilla Mulling as her second great grandmother was Rosetta Alden Staples. I soon found her death certificate and that she was the daughter of Elisha Alden and Ruhamah Turner. Rosetta had died in St. Cloud, Minnesota, which lies along the Mississippi River, and is the County seat of Stearns County. However, the east side of St. Cloud is east of the Mississippi and that is Benton County. Thus the county seat is Foley and the request for a death certificate there produced the information above.

Ruhamah comes from the Hebrew and is Biblical and means loved.

As I searched for a connection to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins I discovered a group that was also looking for a connection through the same Elisha Alden. I joined them in the search with the same information I had received from my Foley inquiry.

At the time I joined the group they had proposed the connection through Lt. Elisha Alden and his son Elisha, so it was an Elisha – Elisha – Elisha connection, but there was a two year difference in our Elisha's age and the third Elisha, but dates sometimes leave something to be desired. Some of the group kept searching.

Sheryl Sheaffer of the group proposed that Simeon might be the link with Lt. Elisha Alden rather than Elisha. She had found the family and had a list of the children but Elisha's birth date was taken by a daughter in the family and Elisha was not to be found.

I had read about the use of old censuses in an article by George Eastman, and thought I would like to try it. Before the 1850 Census only the head of the household was named and all the family, including the head, was listed by number of males and females in different age categories. I was able to find Simeon Alden listed in the 1800, 1810, and 1820 Censuses. I charted the family and compared it with the information Sheryl had posted for the group online, and found that most of it fit except there was an extra girl at an earlier date and a male at her date would have been our Elisha.

There are good book collections for Massachusetts and Connecticut that give births, marriages, and deaths according to towns (townships in more westerly areas). They were a good help, but the Wilbraham book was not in our collection. However, the Family History Library had it on film. I sent for the film and was able to identify, by name and dates, those that had been born in Wilbraham. The Barbour collection of books did the same for those in Connecticut.

New Hampshire information was only provided in the census.

Location for the movement of this family was found by other members of the group, and I located a

church membership for Simeon and his new wife Mary. Another group member provided the name of Hurd for the new wife. Simeon's first wife, Polly Bestor, died with the birth of their last son Horace. Horace had also been the name of their first son who had past away in 1811 at the age of 13. Their second Horace was born in 1820 after the census was taken.

A couple of Canadian Censuses have proved valuable. In 1842 Simeon and Elisha are found only three farms apart, and the 1851 dated census was late and not taken until 1852 has names that affect some of the family stories. It was shortly after this census that they left for Minnesota settling first in Louisville Township, Scott County as attested to by the 1857 territorial census taken just prior to Minnesota statehood. By 1860 Federal Census they are located in Stearns County, St. Joseph Township, and the two oldest girls are married to Staples brothers.

Another strong factor that can be noted is the names of children in Simeon's family and Elisha's family. Rosetta, Horace, and Lucinda are names common to both families, and appear to be a brother and two sisters of Elisha that died early and he honored by naming his offspring after them.

During 1860 time period Elisha is checking out Colorado as a home site and decides to move with the rest of the family in 1861. The Indian unrest in Minnesota at that time was one of the deciding factors.

Charles Haff a newer member of the group provided the closing link in discovering sale of land by Elisha that he had inherited from Simeon.

Horace Alden's biography found first in Portrait and Biographical Record of the State of Colorado and published in 1899 and again in 1934 publication of The Real Pioneers of Colorado by Mary Davies McGrath gives a great deal of information on his father Elisha.

Each family line from the children of Elisha and Ruhamah has their own stories and add to the richness of understanding of the family as a whole: i.e., Ruhamah found little George lying out in the snow when she returned from helping some neighbors. He recovered, but had seizures later that lasted throughout his life and made him difficult to handle as he grew into manhood and developed strength in his favorite pastime of chopping wood. She prayed that she would out live George and he would not be sent away to a home. George died in April of 1896, his mother in December of that year. So Ruhamah (called Roo) had her wish granted. She had a canker on her nose which turned out to be Cancer and was treated too late.

Group work paid good dividends and helped immensely in solving a problem and enriching the family picture.

Micro Film and Micro Fiche Orders from Salt Lake City

All LDS film orders can now be ordered online. Paper forms will no longer be used. The website is film.familysearch.org You must pay for your order with a credit card, debit card or use paypal to order.

When you set up your account you can designate that the film be delivered to The Laramie County Library, just as it has been in the past. Just be sure and look down the list of mailing addresses for Wyoming. First you will see the Cheyenne Stake Center and further down the list is Laramie County Library.

(It was easy to set up my account and order the film that I wanted. Then I could print the receipt so I had a copy of the transaction. Wanda)

Web Sites and Internet Search Sites By: Wanda Wade

Winter is here so we can grab our coffee cups and snuggle up with our computers to search a few web sites. Here a few to try and while you are surfing the net – try *The Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*. It contains many interesting articles.

New and more interactive version of the Historical U.S. County Boundary Maps tool released!

Your genealogical society members may find this free new Historical U.S. County Boundaries interactive map tool useful in their researches: <http://randymajors.com/p/maps.html>

A write-up on recent enhancements can be found here: <http://randymajors.com/2011/10/new-and-more-interactive-version-of.html>

Thank you for your consideration of including a mention of the tool in an upcoming newsletter or blog post.

All the best,
Randy Majors
free web tools: [AncestorSearch](#) and [Historical County Boundary Maps](#)
(I tried the map site and it is fun and interesting to use. Wanda)

This site is for New York Newspapers looked interesting for those of you who are searching in New York State. Copies of the papers are online in a PDF format. I found it on *The Eastman Online* site. These appear to be newspapers from as early as 1830.
<http://fultonhistory.com/my%20photo%20albums/All%20Newspapers/index.html>

From The Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter –

The 1940 census will become available to the public on April 2, 2012. The date was chosen to comply with the requirement to protect privacy for 72 years. If you want to watch a vintage video, you can learn more about the contents of the 1940 census in a 10-minute movie created by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The movie was created in 1939 or 1940 and is typical newsreels of that time.

The movie focuses on the role of the enumerators (census takers) but explains who was counted and also provides many details about the 1940 census. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/OwZk6rASC8k>.

RAOGK

Since it was announced in mid-October that the site Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness web site was down indefinitely there have been several messages posted on *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* web-site suggesting alternative options. (I have looked at some of these, but I have not tried them, so use them at your own discretion. Wanda)

<http://www.facebook.com/thebrickwallclub>
<http://sites.google.com/site/thebrickwallclub/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/raogk/>

Important Changes Made to the Public Death Master File (DMF) and the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

Effective 01 November 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed its policy on what records it will use as source material for adding new entries in the Public Death Master File (DMF) which, in turn, is used to create the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

The Agency decided that it can no longer use state death records to add new entries to the DMF. Furthermore, the SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records currently on the SSDI because those entries were made based on information from state death records.

You can read a lot more about the new changes in Steve Danko's blog at <http://stephendanko.com/blog/15164> as well as from a Fact Sheet from the Social Security Administration's website at <http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/ci/fattach/get/601/>

Omaha World-Herald 10-29-11

BRIEFLY

You can carry flag at homestead event

Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Neb., seeks individuals with a connection to those who received land through the Homestead Act of 1862.

One volunteer from each of the 30 homestead states is needed to carry his or her state's flag for the Homestead Act's 150th National Commemoration Event on May 20, 2012, and then again for the Homestead Day's Parade on June 16, 2012.

Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming are among the homestead states.

People interested in volunteering should submit a one-page nomination that includes name, address, contact information and a short statement explaining their connection to the Homestead Act and why they would like to be selected. Or submit a form at [nps.gov/home/planyourvisit/volunteers-](http://nps.gov/home/planyourvisit/volunteers-needed-flag-carry.htm)

[needed-flag-carry.htm](http://nps.gov/home/planyourvisit/volunteers-needed-flag-carry.htm).

Nominations and questions can be emailed to Home_information@nps.gov, faxed to 402-228-4231 or mailed to Superintendent, Attention: Volunteer Flag Program, Homestead National Monument of America, 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, NE 68310.

Special Memorials

Donald Wayne Brown, 76, of Cheyenne died Oct. 31 in Cheyenne. Mr. Brown was born March 16, 1935, in Garden City, Kansas. He married Mary Ann Stillwell on Oct. 28, 1955 in Cheyenne.

Mr. Brown gave many hours of volunteer time to the Laramie County Library and to the Cheyenne Genealogical Society.

Mr. Brown is survived by his wife, Mary of Cheyenne; son, Dr. Leslee Brown of Detroit; daughter, Marsha Hays of Cheyenne; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

We recently received word that Warren A. Bower of Atchison, Kansas died October 19, 2011. Warren was born October 31, 1924 in Worland, Wyoming.

Warren had been an active member of our Society for many years. In 2005 he moved to Atchison, Kansas to be near his oldest son Jack.

He is survived by his four children, Jack Bower of Atchison; Joe of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Joanne Bower Simpson of Seattle, Washington and Carolyn Bower Aanestad of Riverton, Wyoming.

They were our friends and we offer our sincere sympathies to the families of these dedicated genealogists.

We Are Chosen

Unknown Author

We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes.

Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say. It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.

It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribbling each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before.

New Members

Clinton J. Black
Gwen Sackrison
John and Lindsey Taylor

Genealogical Society's Meetings

November 8, 2011

The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society invites its members and the public to a veteran's remembrance and nostalgic look at part of World War I, presented by Ret. USAF Major Henry S. Miller, Cheyenne resident. In his presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Cottonwood Room of the Laramie County Library. Miller will present a display of uniforms, photos and items from 1918 and talk about his relatives who served in France in WWI. Miller, who is a VFW Post 1881 trustee and a genealogist, has researched WWI and assembled a collection of materials and stories documenting his relatives' roles in the war. This free, educational program is sponsored by the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society whose mission is to stimulate and encourage family history research through a variety of programs and projects.

December 13, 2011

For our holiday gathering on Tuesday, December 13, we will be celebrating our ethnic roots with a carry-in supper. If you wish, your dish may be an ethnic or heritage or holiday specialty to share. The Society will provide dinnerware and beverages. The gathering will be in the Cottonwood Room of the Laramie County Library (first floor); doors open at 6:00 p.m., with dinner service at 6:15 p.m.

Following dinner, a special holiday sharing-session will be the evening's program. Participants are asked to bring an ornament or holiday decoration that means something special to your family and you will have 3-5 minutes to describe this special item to the group.

Our annual giving effort will be a collection of school supplies for Cole Elementary School. Watch for specific need items in upcoming e-mails.

Make plans to join the group for our annual holiday gathering and membership sharing.

Current Officers of Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society

President - Judy Engelhart	307-632-2623
Vice President - Virginia Walters	307-635-4513
Secretary - Elaine Hayes	307-773-7232
Treasurer - Cal Truax	307-638-3482
Past President - Wendy Douglass	307-632-2533

If you have suggestions for the newsletter or areas of interest you would like to share please contact me at

WADE_27043@msn.com or 307-638-3877

Hope you all have a happy Thanksgiving

