

Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

Sept-Oct 2014

Volume 11 Issue 5

CHEYENNE GENEALOGY JOURNAL

Message from the CGHS President

October, Family History Month. How appropriate...as the weather changes and the leaves drop. Our summer research trips are completed. We begin putting new-found information into our records, making notes of new stories to share at upcoming family get-togethers--hoping they will enjoy the story, as much as we enjoyed researching it. Isn't the search part of the story also? Those of you who have been doing family history research for any length of time can remember sitting in the small microfilm room at the National Archives, knowing there were people waiting for a freed-up reader. The line meant there was a time limit of 30 minutes. Unless the line reached six people you were safe to continue cranking the microfilm reader. Remember the Soundex Key taped on the wall near the small, slow (by today's standards) computer? Suddenly someone on a reader across the room yells out "Yes! I found him!" Sharing in the excitement, the rest of the room claps, while the details of the discovery are shared with whoever wants to listen, and those who don't. There is an electricity in the room; everyone is reenergized to make their own discovery. With so much information now being available on line, I personally have not been to the National Archives in more years than I care to think. I have continued with my research; however, it is now done at home at my computer, alone. Therefore, when I found that long lost great-grandmother and expressed my excitement aloud, there was no one to hear but me. It felt somewhat anti-climactic. So, to celebrate Family History Month, I have made a personal decision to get out and take some classes, and do my research in a more social environment. I want to get out there and share my excitement with someone else who has been searching as long as I have. We have a huge amount of resources available here in Cheyenne. I hope to see some of you out there taking advantage of them, and sharing your discoveries!

—Robin Everett

Upcoming Events:

14 Oct 2014, 6 pm
CGHS Meeting, Organizing Your Family History, Gloria Milmont, Special Collections Room, Laramie County Library, Cheyenne

25 Oct 2014, 9:30-4:00, **German Research Seminar,** Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG, Denver Public Library, W. 14th Ave., Denver, email: genealo-gyquest@yahoo.com

20 Nov 2014, 6:30 pm
Larimer County Genealogical Soc. Meeting, Probate Research, Patricia Roberts, Old Town Public Library, 210 Peterson St., Fort Collins, Colorado

NOTE: The hyperlinks in this newsletter should all be live—click on the link while holding down the control key. The site should load momentarily.

Unrestored Ellis Island Buildings Are Open for First Time in 60 Years

Shuttered for 60 years, Ellis Island's South Side Hospital Complex opened to visitors for the first time on Wednesday, Oct. 1, revealing an overlooked story in immigration to the United States. Approximately one immigrant out of ten who arrived at Ellis Island received medical attention at this facility. Tickets are available for purchase through the national park ferry site, [Statue Cruises](#). The 90-minute tours will take place four times a

day and will be limited to 10 people per tour, ages 13 and older. They will be offered on a reserved, scheduled basis by Save Ellis Island. Tickets are \$25, and proceeds from the sales will go toward the continuing preservation and restoration of the complex. In its day, the 29-building complex was the largest U.S. Public Health Service Institution in the United States. Ill and infirm immigrants were treated and cured within its walls before

being allowed to enter the country. Approximately 1.2 million of the 12 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island received medical treatment at what may have been the most modern, comprehensive hospital in the nation. This facility included wards for obstetrics, mental health and contagious diseases. It had laundry facilities and even a morgue.



The nonprofit Save Ellis Island, Inc., in partnership with the National Park Service has raised funds to stabilize and partially restore several of the hospital complex buildings.

Virtual Genealogy Fair Offered Through National Archives—Denver

The National Archives, Denver Center, is offering genealogy classes this month that can be viewed at the Denver Center, 17101 Huron St., Broomfield, CO. or online at Youtube.

Day 1: Tues. October 28th

Session 1, 8 a.m.

Introduction to Genealogy, Claire Prechtel Kluskens, National Archives, Washington, DC

Session 2, 9 a.m.

Preserving Your Own Personal Records, Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, National Archives, College Park, MD

Session 3, 10 a.m.

When Saying 'I Do' Meant Giving Up Your U.S. Citizenship, Meg Hacker, National Archives, Fort Worth, TX

Session 4, 11 a.m.

Overview of American Indian Records and Resources on the National Archives Website, Jessica Hopkins, National Archives, Kansas City, MO

Day 2: Wed. October 29th

Session 5, 8 a.m.

Great Granny Eunice came from Ireland, Grandpa Fred was in the War, Can Access Archival Databases (AAD)

Ellis Island Announces Renovated Website

In 2001, Ellis Island established a website that provided access to more than 51 million passenger arrival records. After more than a decade in service, the website itself is undergoing a renovation. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation (SOLEIF) recently launched a beta version of the new website. The new site is cleaner and easier to navigate. You can search by passenger's name or by ship. Results include a textual transcription of the manifest, an image of the original manifest, and information about the ship (including images of ships that docked there). If you see

Help Me? John Legloahec, National Archives, College Park, MD

Session 6, 9 a.m.

World War I Draft Registration Cards, Zina Rhone, National Archives, Atlanta, GA

Session 7, 10 a.m. Ancestry.com, Quinton Atkinson of Ancestry.com

Session 8, 11 a.m.

Finding the Correct Ancestor: Using Civil War and Census Records, Jean Nudd, National Archives, Boston, MA

Session 9, Noon

FamilySearch, Carol Petranek of FamilySearch

Session 10, 1 p.m.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Zack Wilske, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Session 11, 3 p.m.

Federal Land Records at the National Archives, Rick Martinez, National Archives, Denver, CO

Day 3: Thurs. October 30th

Session 12, 8 a.m.

Family History and the FOIA: Re-researching 20th Century FBI records, Britney Crawford & Netisha Curri, National Archives, College Park, MD

mistakes in the way your ancestor's name was indexed, you can request a correction to be made. If you have an existing account on the old website, you will need to select a new password when you log in to the new site. Other than that, you should have no problems accessing the site. Remember that this is a beta site, which means some things may not always be working. And other parts may change as they conduct tweaks. The good news is that SOLEIF is actively soliciting feedback about the site, and welcomes comments. Check it out at www.libertyellisfoundation.org.

Session 13, 9 a.m.

Discovering Your Family's Past in Military and Early Veterans Administration Personal Data Records and Selective Service Records, Stephen A. Smith, Daria Labinsky & David Hardin, National Archives, St. Louis, MO

Session 14, 10 a.m.

Individual Deceased Military Personnel Files (IDPFs), Bryan McGraw, National Archives, St. Louis, MO

Session 15, 11 a.m.

Vets and Feds in the Family Tree, Theresa Fitzgerald, National Archives, St. Louis, MO

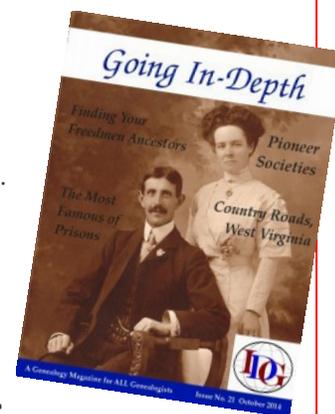
Session 16, Noon

Alien Ancestors During Times of War, Elizabeth Burnes, National Archives, Kansas City, MO

Session 17, 1 p.m.

Patently Amazing: Finding Your Family in Patent Records, Christopher Magee, National Archives, Kansas City, MO

Going In-Depth is the digital genealogy magazine presented by The In-Depth Genealogist. In each monthly issue, you'll find guest articles, regular columns, and free resources such as [Ask Ephraim](#) and [MIAA](#) to help you along your family history journey. As with all IDG products, the producers strive to create a resource for every genealogist, no matter the age, stage, or focus of their research. Subscribers get a new issue on the 15th of each month at <http://theindepthgenealogist.com/going-in-depth/>



Genealogy News You Can Use...

FamilySearch & GenealogyBank Announce Massive Online U.S. Obituaries Project Using Online Volunteers

In celebration of Family History Month, [FamilySearch International](#) and [GenealogyBank](#) recently announced an agreement to make over a billion records from historical obituaries searchable online. It will be the largest—and perhaps most significant—online US historic records access initiative yet. It will take tens of thousands of online volunteers to make GenealogyBank's vast U.S. obituary collection more discoverable online. Find out more at [FamilySearch.org/Campaign/Obituaries](#) The tremendous undertaking will make a billion records from over 100 million US newspaper obituaries readily searchable online. The newspapers are from all 50 states and cover the period 1730 to present. The completed online index will be fairly comprehensive, including 85% of U.S. deaths from the last decade alone. The death collection will easily become one of the most popular online genealogy databases ever, detailing names, dates, relationships, locations of the deceased, and multigenerational family members. Obituaries can solve family puzzles, tell stories, dispel myths, and provide tremendous help with family history research. A single obituary can include the names and relationships of dozens of family members. Dennis Brimhall, CEO of FamilySearch, explained that obituaries are extremely valuable because they tell the stories of our ancestors' lives long after they are deceased. "Billions of records exist in US obituaries alone," Brimhall said. "The average obituary contains the names of about ten family members of the deceased—parents, spouse, children, and other relatives. Some include much more. Making them easily

searchable online creates an enormously important source for compiling our family histories. The number of people who will benefit from this joint initiative is incalculable."

GenealogyBank has over 6,500 historical U.S. newspapers and growing, spanning over 280 years. The death notices in these publications go beyond names and dates. They can provide insightful first-hand accounts about an ancestor that simply are not available from censuses or vital records alone.

"Obituaries, unlike any other resource, have the ability to add incredible dimensions to an individual's family history research. They contain a wealth of information including facts and details that help capture the legacy of those who have passed on," said Dan V. Jones, GenealogyBank Vice President. "The unique life stories written, dates documented, and generations of family members mentioned are often only found within an obituary. Obituaries have the unique power to both tell a story and enable individuals to learn more about their family relationships. GenealogyBank is proud and excited to partner with FamilySearch in bringing these obituaries to researchers all over the world."

The success of the massive US obituary campaign will depend on online volunteers. Obituaries are fairly simple to read, since they are digital images of the typeset, printed originals, but require human judgment to sort through the rich, historic data and family relationships recorded about each person. Information about online volunteering is available at [FamilySearch.org/indexing](#).

Handwritten Does Not Always Mean an Original Document

Just because something is handwritten does not always mean that it is the *original*. Many older courthouse records are handwritten transcriptions of the original documents—commonly referred to as the "record copy." This is especially true with deeds before other reproductive techniques were developed. Some wills were copied by transcribers into record books as well. It is not bad that something is a handwritten copy, but bear in mind that it could be a handwritten reproduction of the original document OR a handwritten document could be the original document. —*Michael John Neill*,

Genealogy Tip of the Day

Download or Read More Than 83,000 Genealogy Books Free

Several organizations have been digitizing old genealogy and family history books for several years. The number of available books is still growing daily. One of the largest such collections is available in Archive.org's genealogy collection. Available items include books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents. [Note: You will need to use the search box on the home page for "genealogy archive" or similar phrase, then do the same again on the results page for a more specific search, e.g. family name or state etc.] Archive.org never charges for any of its holdings and you are free to read, download, print, and enjoy anything and everything available on their site. [Archive.org](#), a division of the Internet Archive, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form.

—*Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter Online*

**Cheyenne
Genealogical &
Historical Society**

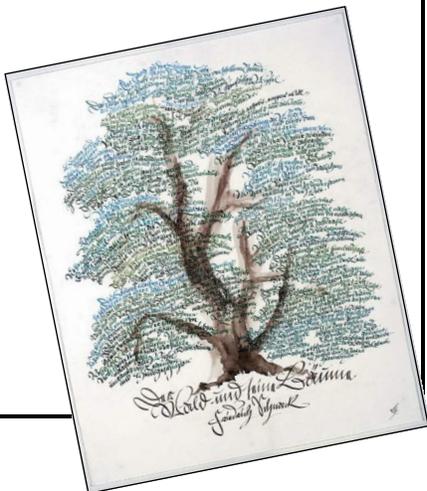
P.O. Box 2539
Cheyenne, Wyoming
82003-2539
Website:
www.cgswyoming.org

To contact CGHS or to
submit newsletter
suggestions and/or articles,
send a note to Wendy at
wendywy04@aol.com

Follow us on the Web at
www.cgswyoming.org
and on Facebook at [https://
www.facebook.com/pages/Cheyenne-
Genealogical-Historical-Society](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cheyenne-Genealogical-Historical-Society)

The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society welcomes these
new members who have joined the
organization recently:

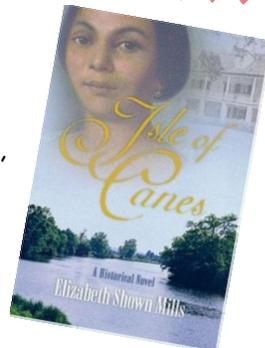
- Kathy Boden
- Ranel & Barry Capron
- Janet Geortz-Sharpe
- Jennifer & Scot Morton



"CHECK THIS OUT"

Family history-related fiction & nonfiction
book reviews by CGHS members

Isle of Canes, by Elizabeth Shown
Mills (2004—Fiction)



Isle of Canes is an epic account of an African-American family in Louisiana that, over four generations and more than 150 years, rose from the chains of slavery to rule the Isle of Canes. Historically accurate and genealogically significant, this first novel by eminent genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills is a gripping tale of racial bias, human conflict, and economic ruin told against the backdrop of colonial Louisiana. This novel is the result of more than thirty years of research. To fuel the story, as well as to maintain historical accuracy, the author found and referenced actual family history documents such as baptism records, manumission papers, probate records, land records, book extracts, and more to reconstruct the lives and times of Francois, Fanny, Coincoin, Augustin, and countless other unforgettable characters. But it takes more than documents on paper and microfilm to bring such an epic story to life. Mills' engaging prose puts flesh on the bones and pulls you into the lives and lifestyle of long-ago Louisiana. This is a historical novel following over four generations and more than 150 years of genealogical history of one multi-racial family against the backdrop of colonial and antebellum Louisiana. Contains drawings, portraits, and original source documents. Published by MyFamily.com, Inc., Provo, UT 84604.

—Jo Butler & WyldCat

Using Document Abstracts Should Provide Clues for Research

Are you using an abstract or a summary of a document? Abstracts and summaries by their nature leave out details. The 1716 will of Thomas Sargent of Malden, Massachusetts, mentions all his children by name. But it also indicates why he gave his children what he did, what he had already given them, and a few other details about their life than an abstract may not include. Abstracts and summaries are meant to give researchers an idea of what is in a document or record. Sometimes there's more information hiding in there.

—by Michael John Neill, from *Genealogy Tip of the Day*