

Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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CHEYENNE GENEALOGY JOURNAL

Message from the CGHS President

I just love the poem 'Twas the Night before Christmas and story A Christmas Carol. The magic of the holidays came to life in those two literary pieces. Coming from a family of seven children, I also had the threat of a stocking of coal if I wasn't good. I knew in my heart then & believe to this day that my mother has a direct line to Santa, and would report me in heartbeat. Somehow, I was always blessed with special gifts- some that I have kept and bring out as part of my Christmas decorations. Another fond memory was donating to Saint Joseph's Children's home in Torrington. This was always done right after the holidays—outgrown clothes and toys. That brought me more joy than I realized at the time. Little did I know my mother was instilling in me the joy of giving. My two most special Christmas gifts were my children—my son was born on December 23rd, and my daughter - two years and a day later on the 24th. I have shared these childhood memories with them (probably more times than I realize). My daughter has blessed me with two grandsons, a new audience for my stories. To keep with the tradition of giving, as a family we shop for gifts for donating, it is interesting to see the thought process that goes on in their heads in selecting their donation gift. I hope you are able to enjoy the holidays with your families, and find an audience for your stories.

Merry Christmas!

—Robin Everett



Upcoming Events:

9 Dec 2014, 6 pm

CGHS Meeting, How Christmas Was Celebrated at the Old Governor's Mansion, Christina Bird, Cottonwood Room, Laramie County Library, Cheyenne

13 Jan 2015, 6 pm

CGHS Meeting, Genealogical Lineage Societies: An Overview, Sunflower Room, Laramie County Library, Cheyenne

12-14 Feb 2015

Roots Tech Convention, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Laramie County Library to Feature National Exhibition Incorporating CGHS Displays

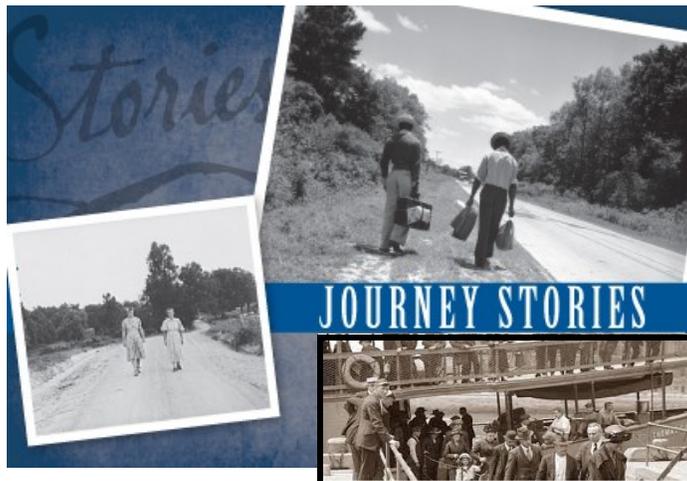
Journey Stories is a Museum on Main Street project organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in association with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center, Smithsonian Institution; brought to our state by the Wyoming Humanities Council, funded by the U.S. Congress, and presented at the Laramie County Library during December, January & February. The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society will provide a number of displays that will highlight genealogical stories during the exhibition. Journey stories are tales of how

we and our ancestors came to America; they are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens, regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone

has a story to tell. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything - families and possessions - to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or across an

ocean. The reasons behind those decisions are myriad. Many chose to move, searching for something better in a new land. Others had no choice, like enslaved Africans captured and relocated to a strange land and bravely asserting their own cultures, or like Native Americans already here, who were pushed aside by newcomers. Our transportation history is more than boats, buses, cars, wagons, and trucks. The development of transportation technology was largely inspired by the human drive for freedom.

(continued on page 3...)



2015 RootsTech Conference Offers Early Bird Pricing Until 23 Jan 2015

RootsTech, hosted by Family-Search, is the largest global family history event in the world. The fifth annual conference—"Celebrating Families Across Generations"—is the perfect place to discover and share your family's stories and connections through technology. At RootsTech, there is something for everyone, regardless of experience in family history or skill in technology. This annual 3-day event offers more than 200 classes, ranging from using social media as a family history resource to the most recent discoveries in DNA research; an expo hall of hundreds of exhibitors and sponsors, including interactive booths to assist in your family history journey; general sessions with well-known and inspiring speakers; and entertaining events at the end of each day. RootsTech will be held Feb. 12-14, 2015, in partnership with the [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) (FGS), offering two great conferences in one location at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City.

As a family history enthusiast or an



experienced genealogy researcher, you can attend all three days of RootsTech, with over 200 classes to help expand your skills, learn about new and emerging technologies, and explore best practices to overcome research brick walls. A three-day pass is \$159, or one-day pass is \$89. A "Getting-

Started" 3-day pass is \$39 with access to 30 beginner classes, the keynote speakers, general sessions, evening events and Expo Hall. A one-day pass for these beginner options is \$19. See more details at <https://rootstech.org/agenda/schedule>.

This year, RootsTech is teaming up with the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) to offer two great conferences in one venue. They'll share keynotes, activities, and the Expo Hall. Classes will be separate for each conference. Every year FGS sponsors a national conference for genealogists of all levels of experience in order to help link the genealogical community of member societies, libraries, archives, and other member organizations. The conference features genealogical lectures on a wide array of topics, including those of local, regional, national, and international importance, and organizational leadership training for member societies. If you purchase a RootsTech three-day pass, you can add access to the full four-day FGS program (Wed. through Sat., Feb. 11-14, 2015) for just \$39.

RootsTech will feature an exciting line-up of keynote speakers that will inspire and entertain you to discover, share, and connect with family stories - past, present, and future. Keynotes this year will include well-known industry experts, entertainers and authors, including:

—Friday, Feb 13 —*A. J. Jacobs* is an author, journalist,

human guinea pig and cousin. He is the author of four *New York Times* best-sellers that combine memoir, science, humor and a dash of self-help. He is editor-at-large for *Esquire* magazine, and a commentator for NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday*. He has given three TED talks with nearly three-million

views combined. His books include "The Year of Living Biblically," "Drop Dead Healthy," and "The Know-It-All" (about his quest to read the entire Encyclopedia Britannica). He is currently helping to build a family tree that connects the entire world, and, on June 6, 2015, he will be hosting the [Global Family Reunion](#), a fundraiser for Fighting Alzheimer's Disease.

—Saturday, Feb. 14 —*Donny Osmond*, a singer, actor, television series host (talk show, game show, variety show), best-selling author, commercial spokesman, motivational speaker, and racecar driver. Throughout his career, Donny earned 33 gold records; selling roughly 120 million albums. In 2011, he and sister Marie released their first studio album "Donny and Marie" in over two decades. The single "A Beautiful Life" became #1 on the US Country Charts. Within the last few years, Donny has starred on Broadway in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, hosted two series on British network television, was a special correspondent for *Entertainment Tonight*, and was crowned *Dancing with the Stars* 2009 champion.

For information on Roots-Tech registration go to: <https://registration.rootstech.org/2015/portal/newreg.ww>

For information on Roots-Tech programs, schedule, and events go to: <http://rootstech.org/agenda/schedule?lang=eng>

For information on the FGS program and registration, go to: <https://www.fgsconference.org/>



Genealogy News You Can Use...

Smithsonian Display To Feature "Journey Stories"

(...continued from page 1)

The Museum on Main Street exhibition *Journey Stories* will examine the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to



of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and fun & frolic on the open road. The story of the intersection between transportation and American society is complicated, but it tells us much about who we are - people who see our societal mobility as a means for asserting our individual freedom. *Journey Stories* will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building

our diverse American society. Plan on a visit to the library in Dec-Jan or Feb to experience this incredible exhibition. For a teaser on the exhibit, see these promos on YouTube:

- [Journey Stories Exhibition Trailer](#)
- [Preview of the Exhibit](#)

move. The story is diverse and focused on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom. It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, a homestead, or

New or Updated Genealogy Records & Sites To Explore

WWI Images From Massachusetts

The State Library of Massachusetts has completed digitizing 8,400 images of World War I soldiers primarily from Massachusetts, with some images of soldiers from surrounding states. Many of the images are of individual soldiers and contain biographical information. This collection was donated to the state library in 1935 by the Boston Globe newspaper. It is a good collection to search if you had ancestors from the Northeast who were soldiers in WWI. Access is free. [[Massachusetts WWI Soldier Images](#)]

Family Search Record Updates:

- [Iowa Death Records, 1880-1992;](#)
- [Michigan Obituaries, 1820-2006;](#)
- [Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic Membership Records;](#)
- [Nebraska State Census, 1885](#)

"Essex Ancestors" Provides Access to 70,000 Historic Wills

The website *Essex Ancestors* run by the Essex Records Office (Chelmsford, England) has uploaded an additional 22,500 historic wills, bringing the total number of wills on the website to some 70,000. The wills span the years from the 1400s to 1858. All the wills in the ERO's possession up to 1720 have now been put online. Work is continuing on digitizing the remaining 28,000 wills dating from 1720 to 1858. Access to the collection is by subscription. However, searches to locate any appropriate documents are free. To view these documents requires registering and selection between a variety of subscription options. Visit [Essex Ancestors](#)



Family History Library Announces Remodeling Changes

In an effort to beautify the FH Library and to enhance guest services and research specialist interactions, the reference desks on the B1, B2, and 2nd floors were removed and replaced with new consultation areas.



For example, the B1 International floor has separate reference areas for European, Nordic, and Latin American Help integrated into the guest areas of the floor. A comfortable welcome area resides where the old reference desks used to be.

They also implemented a new guest services model. To help guests get assistance without waiting in lines, they added a guest paging system. Volunteers are still available on each floor to help with questions, though when additional expertise is needed, guests can sign up for a consultation with a specialist during daytime hours Monday-Friday. To sign up, the guest can visit with a scheduler who will give them a restaurant style pager. The guest can then continue their research anywhere in the Library. Once paged, the guest returns to the welcome area of the floor where they will be greeted by a research specialist. The paging system is in use for B1, B2, and the 2nd floor. On the Main Floor they have added photo & document scanning equipment and Family Story Booths for recording video & audio that can be added to your Family Tree.

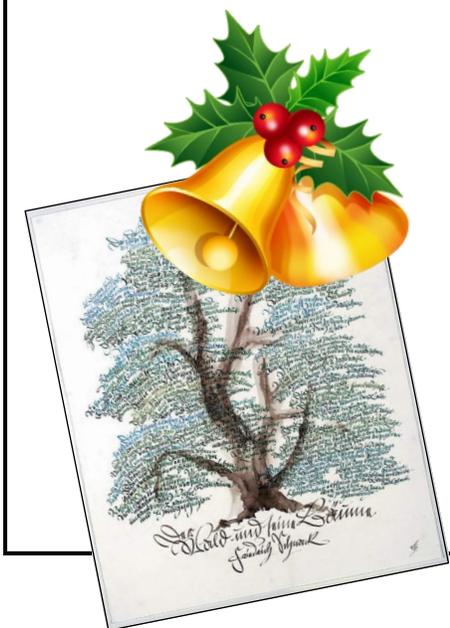
**Cheyenne
Genealogical &
Historical Society**

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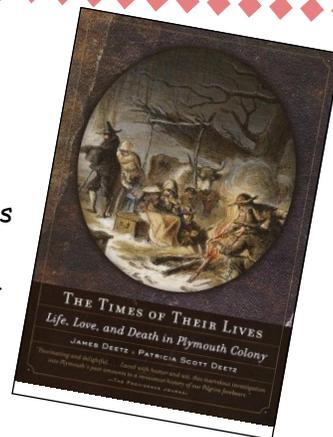
*The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society wishes all
members a very merry Christmas
and joyful holiday season!*



"CHECK THIS OUT"

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

**The Times of Their Lives:
Life, Love, and Death in
Plymouth Colony**, by James
Deetz & Patricia Scott Deetz



James Deetz, who until his death was a leading expert on the archaeology of Plymouth Colony, and his wife, cultural historian Patricia Scott Deetz, give a realistic and fascinating picture of life in colonial America as they recount, in colorful detail, the true story of Plymouth Colony. The Pilgrims were not the somber, dark-clad historical figures children learn about in school. Nor were they nearly as pious as we've been led to believe: they wore brightly colored clothing, drank heavily, had adulterous affairs, and committed both petty and serious crimes against their neighbors. Using court transcripts, wills, probate records, rare first-hand accounts, and archeological finds, the Deetzes delve into everyday life in Plymouth Colony, accurately recasting one of the most cherished chapters of American history. They present a startling portrait through impeccable research that includes aspects of the legal system, folk beliefs, family life, women's roles and gender issues, eating habits, alcohol use, misconduct, domestic violence, suspicious deaths, and violent crimes. I enjoyed this book and learned that our founding fathers and mothers were vibrant people who lived complex and colorful lives.

—Wendy D. & GoodReads.com

NLI Library of Ireland to Begin Digitization of Irish Parish Records

The Catholic Church and the [National Library of Ireland](http://www.nli.ie) have partnered to make almost 400,000 images of Catholic parish register microfilms available online for free. A NLI statement called the records the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 census. Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover nearly 1,100 parishes throughout the island of Ireland and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records. "Most census records from this period were destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922, so these parish registers are the most comprehensive surviving source of information on Irish families in the 1700s and 1800s," said Colette O'Flaherty, head of NLI special collections. They will be making these images available for free on a dedicated website by summer 2015.