



Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Message from your CGHS President . . .

(provided by Judy Engelhart)

I think that I shall never see, The finish of a Family Tree.
As it forever seems to grow, From roots that started very low.
'Way back in ancient history times, In foreign lands and distant climes.
From them grew trunk and branching limb, That dated back to time so dim,
One seldom knows exactly when, The parents met and married then.
Nor when the twigs began to grow. 'Though a verse like this is made by me,
And the end's in sight as you can see.
'Tis not the same with Family Trees, that grow and grow through centuries. —Willis G. Corbitt

CGHS Officers 2020-2021

Judy Engelhart, President
Kristine Smith, Vice President
Jeanette Hursman, Secretary
Suzanne Anderson, Treasurer
Sue Seniawski, Past President

Register for RootsTech Connect—It Is Free and Available Online

Remember to register for the upcoming RootsTech Connect conference—a global online event that is one of the largest genealogy conferences in the world. Join in for family history classes, fun heritage insights, inspirational speeches, genealogy tips, and more. RootsTech Connect is set for 25-27 February 2021. Learn more, and register for free. [RootsTech Connect 2021](https://www.rootstech.org/) will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. Every year, genealogists, family history enthusiasts, and industry-leading companies come together for RootsTech. It's truly a genealogist's dream, with multiple days packed with hundreds of classes, thousands of participants, exciting events, and opportunities to connect with family past and present. This year, RootsTech will look a little different, making the conference a safe and accessible experience for as many people as possible. A full schedule of classes, speakers, and events are listed on the website. Highly sought-after keynote speakers from around the world will be sharing their life experiences at RootsTech Connect, and you won't want to miss a moment. Enjoy exclusive messages from **Sharon Morgan**, founder of OurBlackAncestry.com; **Francesco Lotoro**, Italian musician who's saving music written in concentration camps; **Lorena Ochoa**, former Mexican professional golfer and entrepreneur; and **Nick Vujicic**, award-winning author and motivational speaker at RootsTech Connect. Attendees won't miss out on any of these amazing opportunities or immersive classes. And as a fully online conference, RootsTech Connect also makes it possible for the first time to fully participate from anywhere in the world. All you need to do to participate is register with your name, email address, and location. That's it! Once you have registered, you can attend all the classes, speakers, and activities offered during the conference on Feb 25-27. You'll also be able to connect with other attendees through messaging, social media, and video chats. Finding and connecting with friends, cousins and relatives will be possible, just like at any other RootsTech event. Register and join in from the comfort of your own home at [RootsTech.org](https://www.rootstech.org/). And once the conference is over, you'll have full access to all the recordings for the following year.



Upcoming Events:

9 Feb 2021
Monthly Meeting & Program: "Becoming an American: Naturalization" Carol Stetser, Larimer Co., Colo.
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society
6:00-8:00 p.m.,
Online Zoom Event—email otishalverson@gmail.com for Zoom link

18 Feb 2021
"African American Records & Strategies: Post 1865" 10 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

1 Mar 2021
"Using the Family Search Catalog" 10 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

2 Mar 2021
"Navigate, Add, Edit, Standardize & Print on FamilySearch Family Tree" 10 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

4 Mar 2021
"Research in Canada: An Introduction" 12:00 p.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

9 Mar 2021
"The Research Process, Research Help & Searching Records on Family Search" 10 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

17 Mar 2021
"Terrible Beauty: History of Ireland—1170-1800" 9:30 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

17 Mar 2021
"Terrible Beauty: History of Ireland—Before & After the Great Irish Famine" 10:00 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague: *Kristine Marie Smith*

This newsletter column introduces you to the genealogical work of members of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society, to help you get to know your colleagues and perhaps to provide a few ideas or hints—maybe even a family connection!

What is your full name?

Kristine Marie Smith

Are you named after any relative; if so who & why?

I don't know why or how my parents chose the name Kristine. My mother related this story after she had me; my dad came to visit and they were chatting about the birth certificate. She related my name was spelled with a "C". My dad didn't want it spelled with a "C" he wanted it spelled with a "K". He stated with a last name of Smith you had to do something different. He went and had the name changed to Kristine. I use to make a big deal regarding the spelling, but now if it isn't a legal issue, I don't care. Additionally, it is more common now for the name to be spelled with a "K".

My mother's older sister was very special to her so she gave me her middle name of Marie.

The surname "Smith" derives from "blacksmith".

What is your maternal ethnic heritage?

My mother's heritage is English and German.



Kristine's mother, Margaret Louise Graham, around 1943, about age 23, and her father, Bob Smith, about 1941, at 22 years old.

What is your paternal ethnic heritage?

My father's heritage is pure Irish both paternal and maternal. His family originated from County Cavan, Ireland. They were farmers. His

ancestors were Reillys and Smiths. I couldn't have chosen the two most common names if I had made the choice myself.

My knowledge of my grandmother at this time is not as detailed. It appears my grandmother's ancestors are from Ireland. Her father was from Limerick; but I don't know where in Ireland my grandmother's mother is from—a good example of how difficult it can be following the female line of the family tree. Her father worked for the railroad as a carpenter and foreman during his working years. My guess is the railroad brought my grandmother's family to Cheyenne. They came to Cheyenne in 1900. As with my grandfather's family, the Catholic religion played a major part in their lives.

Give your maternal surnames three generations back:

My maternal surnames are: Karriker, Cooley, Williams

Give your paternal wives' or mothers' surnames three generations back:

My paternal surnames are: Smith, Reilly, McCabe

Provide some information about yourself, your background, your family:

I am unmarried at the time of this writing. But happy to announce my main man asked me to marry him on my birthday. We have no marriage date yet.

I was born in Cheyenne, grew up in Riverton, Wyoming. I graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1975 with a degree in Social Work. My area of interest resided in the area of disabilities. My first job was with the Wyoming State Training School as one of their outreach social workers. I was responsible for the five eastern counties: Goshen, Niobrara, Platte, Weston and Crook counties. After 2 1/2 years I transferred to Albany and Laramie counties. My duties included being knowledgeable about the services available in the different counties.

We believed in the concept of the least restrictive environment for the person with the developmental disability. If institutionalization was warranted it was necessary to prove the community could not meet the person's needs. On the other side we assisted the person transitioning from school to the community. It was a very fulfilling job. I met a lot of nice people, assisted individuals, and was able to see the beauty of our state. My second job entailed traveling the whole state. I worked for an agency that represented the civil rights of people with disabilities. My program centered on individuals experiencing problems with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. I evaluated the person's problem to determine if the person's rights had been violated. I am proud to say with the assistance of the staff attorneys I learned how to read statutes, policy, and make useful comments to state plans and policies. There were cases taken to a Fair Hearing and I am proud to say all cases were decided on behalf of the clients. I found that to be an advocate, you need strong self-esteem and a belief that people with disabilities have a special place in this world. The constant feeling of being in a world of strife left me drained and wanting a different life, so I left for another position with much less turmoil. I did enjoy the travel but being gone almost every week does take a toll on one.

My final job in Social Services was providing assistance to individuals with significant disabilities to help them remain in their homes. I did a lot of work with the elderly. The knowledge I obtained from this job assists me now that I am older. I eventually found myself not doing my work as well as I knew I should be doing it, and figured it was time to leave social work.

In the last years of my working life, I became a cashier at Wal-

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As a Beginning Genealogist, Kristine Depends on Family Members & Online Trees for Help

(continued from page 2)

Mart—that was a job that I could go home from without worrying about what I didn't get done or who was mad at me. Working in retail required quite an adjustment to my social skills. Anyone who thinks working as a cashier is easy, does not understand the duties. It was a great learning experiencing to understand the world the majority of people work in. The constant standing, listening to people complain and expect you to fix the problems created by a large retail store. People can be mean and judgemental. I thought dealing with defensive clients and service providers was difficult; that is nothing compared to dealing with the public. I was use to a more flexible environment that allowed taking vacation or sick time without any major problems. That is not the case in the retail world. I had to relearn how to plan in order to access my vacation time. On the positive side, I met a lot of nice people; both employees and the public. I can now say I am retired and "yes I have time when I am bored" but not bored enough to go back to work!

When did you start doing genealogy?

I dabbled in research starting in 1989 when my dad died.

What got you interested in this crazy hobby?

I got serious about genealogy when I retired in 2015. I received a narrative from a distant cousin that really got me started. I found out family information that I had no clue about. I was off running—I joined Ancestry, My Heritage, and Family Search and the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society. I enjoy the research, but get easily confused. Right now I have centered on my paternal grandfather's family and their life in Cheyenne. I keep finding interesting facts about him. I post pictures I find to my relatives and now we are planning the first Smith Family Reunion.



My grandmother's family—the Barlows, from 1915, Left to Right: Nell (my grandmother), Mary Ellen (my great grandmother), George (my great grandfather), and their family—Kate, George Jr., Guy and Francis.

Are you doing direct-line only or collateral research?

I try to stay on direct line, but will find something from Ancestry and will get distracted to another family line. Right now I have not spent a lot of time on my mother's family. There are quite a few people on her side that are doing research. I know I will eventually get there.

What is the most interesting/funniest/most bizarre story you have uncovered? Explain what it was and was it accurate, or if not, why not?

I'm still a beginner and find information locally; I really have centered on my paternal grandfather's family and their life in Iowa and Cheyenne. Right now the most interesting area is finding how my paternal grandfather's family came to Cheyenne. In writing this synopsis it has helped me identify areas I need to research further.

The Reillys and Smiths migrated to America—I'm not sure when or which part of the Reilly and Smith families arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, first. The two families eventually made it to Canton, Mass. However there was a part of the Reilly family that wanted to return to farming. The link between the Smiths and Reillys begins with

Bridgett Galligan and Ann Reilly Smith. Bridget married Sylvester Reilly and they moved west. My grandfather's mother, Ann Reilly Smith is a cousin to Bridgett Galligan Reilly.

Sylvester Reilly and family found the type of land they wanted in Iowa. They made it their home—it eventually was named Reilly Ridge Settlement due to the number of Reilly families and other relatives that moved to the area. It is my guess

through family letters and visiting with family members, it gave the newly married couple, Ann and Mathew Smith, the motivation to move to Iowa in late 1857. They began their family with Thomas Francis Smith, my great grandfather. (Continued on page 4)



Kristine's grandfather, Matt Smith, 1935.

Smith's Ancestors Immigrated from Ireland to Massachusetts, Then Found Land in Iowa

(continued from page 3)

My grandfather's father, Thomas Francis Smith was born on Reilly Ridge Settlement in 1858. He married Margaret Jane Morris in Chickasaw County, Iowa in 1884. Margaret was born in Ohio, her family members were farmers also and they made their way to Iowa. Tom and Margaret returned to Canton, Mass soon after being married. It is my guess due to the depression in farming prices the young couple decided to move where Tom had family in order to begin their married life. Tom worked in one of the mills; they had two children—Matthew (my grandfather) and Mary Agnes. They returned to Iowa once they saved enough money to buy some land. Thomas and his family farmed in Iowa until 1913.

Matthew and his brother Joseph moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1911. I am guessing they chose Cheyenne as it was a hub for the railroad and there was homestead land available. Tom and the rest of the family moved to Cheyenne in 1913. Matt, Tom and Matt's brothers had land close to each other so they probably helped each other with the work required. In order to make ends meet my grandfather also worked for the railroad as a clerk. The second job required him to be away from his land—he provided the necessary documentation to the Land Office. The additional documentation slowed down the government's approval of his homestead request. He obtained his patent February 20, 1917.

Matt married my grandmother, Ellen "Nell" in 1916. He was a prominent businessman, started the Sierra Club in Cheyenne and was very active in the Knights of Columbus. He and another businessman, Sam Slough had S&S Packaging near the railroad until his death in 1961. My father was born in Cheyenne as were his other sisters and brother.

Have you had a DNA test....if so, what has it confirmed, disproved or confounded for you?

I took an Ancestry.com DNA test. It confirmed my knowledge of my paternal heritage. It improved my knowledge on my mother's side. I

knew we had English heritage; now it includes German. So far, my level of comfort stays with Ancestry.com. I have joined other groups and they talk about My Heritage DNA, which at this point sounds too complicated for me.

What do you think are the best methods or best resources (tool, sites, etc.) for researching? Why?

I primarily use Ancestry.com. I don't look as often at FamilySearch and My Heritage as I probably should. If I used them more I would become more comfortable with what they have to offer. But I have experimented with My Heritage's colorized photos ability. I find it is great because it brings out the detail of a photo that a black and white one does not. However, I believe in keeping the valuable old black and white family photos.

Do you use timelines or research plans to help you stay on track or

Findmypast Announces It Will Publish a Digital 1921 Census of England & Wales in 2022

Findmypast has been selected as the UK National Archives' commercial partner to make the 1921 census of England and Wales available online. The census will be published by Findmypast in January 2022. Taken on 19th June 1921, the census consists of more than 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals. It provides greater detail than any previous census as, in addition to the questions asked in 1911, the 1921 returns also asked householders to reveal their place of employment, the industry they worked in and the materials they worked with as well as their employer's name. The [project](#) will see Findmypast capture digital images and transcribe the records in a way that will enable family historians across the globe to conduct searches of these records when they are opened for the first time.

learn what you need to research?

I use timelines as great methods to help me identify what I might be missing—especially to help me look for information in the decades I am missing. Another good resource to find out what happened in the missing decades is Newspaper.com. Timelines also help me focus and gain insight to my grandparents' lives instead of having just a bunch of dates.

What software program do you use for own documentation and keeping your family tree?

I have Legacy genealogy software on my personal computer. However, I find I use my Ancestry.com tree the most.

What is your biggest brick wall on which you would like assistance?

My lack of understanding the beginner skills; i.e. learning how to use the card catalog in all three most used websites. How to use Fold 3. I get confused trying to keep the different branches of the family straight - particular when the people have the same name.

Do you have any thoughts or words of wisdom for your colleagues, on doing genealogy?

My advice for the beginning genealogist is try to not get ahead of yourself as you enjoy finding new relatives and information. The training sessions provided by genealogical sites like Ancestry.com are helpful in learning how to use their sites. As you review them you will find similarities in their information, so I suggest finding one or two that you feel comfortable with and follow those. Also, I have found that joining Facebook groups that are particular to your area of interest can be most helpful. And don't forget your fellow Society members who can provide guidance and most importantly comradery in our joint family search efforts. Finally, enjoy your research, and the insights you find about your ancestors!

Genealogy News You Can Use...

FamilySearch Encourages Users to Make Corrections and Add "Reasons" to Family Tree

This article was written by Annelie Hansen, blogger for Family-Search.

Our goal at FamilySearch is not only to connect individual families, but to connect the human family. In order to accomplish that goal, we need everyone's help. For this reason, FamilySearch Family Tree is a [shared tree](#), which means that it is open for users to contribute what information they have. Using a public or shared tree means that other people can add to or even modify information about the ancestors or relatives that they have in common with you.

We believe that the more people work on [FamilySearch Family Tree](#), the faster it will grow—and the more accurate it will become. However, sometimes well-meaning users make changes in the tree that are incorrect. Thankfully, you can correct mistakes that you see in your tree.

What If There Is a Mistake in My Family Tree?

Mistakes in your tree might include incorrect relationships, an [incorrect record attachment](#), or—one of the more tedious issues—an [incorrect merge](#). Thankfully, every change made in the family tree is archived, and mistakes made in the tree are reversible.

What If a Mistake Keeps Popping Up After I Fix It?

There are a few ways you can prevent individuals from creating these errors in the information once it has been corrected. FamilySearch provides tools that can help you clarify information and collaborate with others. These include the [notes section](#), [discussions](#), and [FamilySearch Messaging](#).

It is Important to Give Good Reason Statements

When you make a change, you can write a reason statement that lets people know [why you've corrected the information](#). For example, one FamilySearch user explained why she removed a mother relationship from one of her ancestors. She also explained why she merged this person with another. (To see her reason statements see <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/correct-mistakes-family-tree/>.)

You can find the history of an ancestor's changes and corrections on his or her [person page](#) by navigating to the right of the page and clicking **Show All** under the **Latest Changes** column. When making changes to

the person yourself, you have the option to write a reason statement for making the change. This reason statement will appear in the **Latest Changes** list for others to see.

A history of changes and reasons for these changes can help others see why you made the corrections that you did and prevent future mistakes.

Write a Life Sketch

Sometimes, writing a life sketch for your ancestor can help prevent any future errors or misconceptions about your ancestor. In this life sketch, you can paste in the person's obituary or any other quick outline of the person's life, explaining details that could prevent future incorrect changes. For example, you could explain in your great-great-grandfather's life sketch that he married a woman with the same name as his previous spouse. This explanation might prevent others from accidentally assuming that the two wives with the same names were the same woman and merging them.

How to Correct Mistakes

As for how to smooth out the wrinkles you've come across in Family Tree, here are some tools, tips, and tricks to help you maintain accuracy in the information about your ancestors.

How Do I Change Vital Information in Family Tree?

In Family Tree, you can correct the name, sex, or event information for a person, regardless of whether you added it. Family Tree is an open, collaborative environment. Your change shows in a change history, along with your user ID and a means to contact you. Any user, including you, can reverse changes if you make a mistake.



Before you start:

- Focus on accuracy. Your change should make the information about a person more correct.
- Be prepared to explain your changes,

and, when possible, attach sources.

- Consider contacting the user who made the last change before you make a correction. To find contact information, click **Detail View**. Then click the name showing in the "Last Changed" details.

Be aware that other Family Tree users could be watching this record. (You can see how many are watching when you make your correction.) They receive an email notification if you change the record. They might contact you to discuss your change.

Steps to make corrections on the Website:

- In Family Tree, display the person page of the individual whose information you want to correct.
- If you do not see Vitals near the top of the screen, click **Details**.
- For the information you need to correct, click **Edit**.
- Review the sources and reason statement. Continue only if your change makes the information more accurate.
- When editing a name, choose the appropriate language in the field above the name fields.
- Make your changes.
- If the option is available to delete information, you can click **Delete** in the bottom right corner of the box.
- If you change a date or place, select a standardized date or place. If no matching standard is available, click **None of the Above**.
- Enter a reason statement to explain why the information is correct. If the existing reasoning is applicable, leave the existing explanation, and add your own comments.
- Click **Save** and refresh the web page after you save changes.

For more information on correcting *Incorrect Merges*, *Wrong Record Links*, and *Contacting other Users*, see: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/correct-mistakes-family-tree/>

