

## Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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Vol. 14 Issue 2

# Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Message from the CGHS President...

STUFF. This is the stage of life that my husband, Bruce and I find ourselves in. Perhaps it is one that you will relate to. It has been called the 'empty nest,' but it is far from empty! It is true that our children have flown, but the evidence of their past presence is ever with us. Over the last few years as they have acquired homes of their own, they have taken all the things that they viewed as treasures, and left plenty of ... not treasured so much. Unfortunately, they also left most of that stuff we saved for them as we were sure that they would need a lot of our old stuff when they would be starting out... because that is what we started out with! Being raised by depression era parents, we learned well the value of pretty much everything. "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without," was the mantra of our childhoods. So, now we are managing a major and somewhat painful paradigm shift as we go through "stuff." Mind you, all this is perfectly good stuff.... It is just that we don't use it any more.... And we certainly don't need it. Why should we mourn because no one we love wants or needs it either?

I remember helping my grandmother move to a smaller more efficient apartment from a lifelong home. My older and wiser male cousins, evaluating the amount of her stuff she had so carefully boxed, and the volume of her new space,... in their superior wisdom randomly relegated about fifty percent of her boxes directly to the dumpster. I have sad memories of visiting her in the following years. We spent about fifty percent of each visit looking for 'things' she wanted to show me, and was sure that she had,... but just couldn't find. I doubted my cousins' wisdom, and felt bad for my grandma as she struggled with what could not be found. (Note to self... manage our stuff before some 'wise' child manages it for us.) So..., back to our 'dilemma' with our 'stuff.' We are diligently getting rid of the stuff that is valued by no one. It is a fairly tedious process. It would be much easier to just drop it all in a dumpster unseen, or at our favorite second hand store in hopes that someone else would find value there. But, we would have missed that little audio cassette of our children's voices when we interviewed them at a young age; or that tin cake cover from my childhood that brought a smile to my face. (At this point in my life, I truly value all things that make me smile.) Bruce grinned for a minute at his college report cards... before he shredded them. Yes, the majority of 'stuff' goes to charity, the dumpster, or the shredder... but we are finding a few gems. We are looking forward to having clear spaces on our counters and nothing on the floors except the furniture we really like and want. And Bruce can't wait to park his car in the garage where he had been storing everything he didn't want to go through just yet! Please let us finish in time to enjoy it! We're ready for the 'stuff-less' stage.

What! Are you telling us that this is a never ending journey...!?

*Gloria Milmont, President*



### Upcoming Events:

19-21 April 2017  
"World War II Historic Displays" by 6th Infantry Living Museum Volunteers  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Cheyenne Veteran's Association Hospital Grounds

6 May 2017  
Colorado Palatines to America German Seminar  
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Central Denver Public Library,  
10 West 14th Ave., Denver  
For more information see article below.

9 May 2017  
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society Banquet & Program 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Yellowstone Room, Radisson Hotel, Cheyenne  
For more information see pg 4.

19-21 May 2017  
Kelly Clan Gathering  
Armada Hotel, Spanish Point  
County Clare, Ireland  
For more information visit:  
[www.kellyclans.com](http://www.kellyclans.com)

28-30 July 2017  
International German Genealogy Partnership Conference  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Marriott Northwest  
Registration now open at  
<https://igqpartner.org/>

30 Aug-2 Sep 2017  
Federation of Genealogical Societies, Annual Conference, D.L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, Penn  
Registration now open at  
<http://www.FGSCConference.org>

## Colorado Palatines to America to Feature a Full-Day of German Research Help

The Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America and the Western History and Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library will be presenting a Book Fair and all-day Seminar featuring Fritz Juengling, Ph.D., AG, on Sat., May 6, 2017 from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the lower level Conference Room (B2) of the Central Denver Public Library, 10 West 14th Ave. The program will feature four hour-long programs, including "German Names: Their Origins, Meanings, and Distribu-

tion" at 10:10 a.m.; "Germans from Russia: Their History, and Resources for Research" at 11:30 a.m.; "German Guild Records: Filling in the Gaps when Parish Records do not Exist" at 1:50 p.m., and "Beyond the Obvious Reasons: Practical and Social Decisions for Emigration to America" at 3:15 p.m. Dr. Fritz Juengling received his B.A. degrees in German Studies and Secondary Education at Western Oregon University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Germanic Philology, with minors in

both English and Linguistics at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Juengling is fluent in English, German, Latin, Dutch, and Norwegian. He has also studied many of the ancient Germanic languages such as Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse (Old Icelandic), Old Frisian, and Middle Dutch. He is an Accredited Genealogist (AG) for Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. Dr. Juengling is a German, Dutch,

and Scandinavian Research Consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The cost of the seminar is \$35 if postmarked before April 29, 2017; add \$5 late fee after that. Make your check payable CO-PALAM and mail it to registrar Sandy Carter-Duff, 723 South Gaylord, Denver, CO 80209-4629. Questions, email her at [Sandy@cardff.com](mailto:Sandy@cardff.com) or call her at 303-777-1391.

A glimpse back at the past...

## "Dust Bowl" drought & dust storms affected millions of Great Plains dwellers

Information in this article is from [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_Bowl)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust\\_Bowl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_Bowl)  
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The Dust Bowl, also known as the **Dirty Thirties**, was a period of severe dust storms that greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture of the American and Canadian prairies during the 1930s; severe drought and a failure to apply dryland farming methods to prevent wind erosion caused the phenomenon. The drought came in three waves, 1934, 1936, and 1939-1940, but some regions of the high plains experienced drought conditions for as many as eight years. With insufficient understanding of the ecology of the plains, farmers had conducted extensive deep plowing of the virgin topsoil of the Great Plains during the previous decade; this had displaced the native, deep-rooted grasses that normally trapped soil and moisture even during periods of drought and high winds. The rapid mechanization of farm equipment, especially small gasoline tractors, and widespread use of the combine harvester contributed to farmers' decisions to convert arid grassland (much of which received no more than 10 inches of precipitation per year) to cultivated cropland.

During the drought of the 1930s, the unanchored soil turned to dust, which the prevailing winds blew away in huge clouds that sometimes blackened the sky. These choking billows of dust - named "black blizzards" or "black rollers" - traveled across country, reaching

as far as the East Coast and striking such cities as New York City and Washington, D.C. On the Plains, they often reduced visibility to 3 feet or less. The drought and erosion of the Dust Bowl affected 100,000,000 acres that centered on the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma and touched adjacent sections of New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas. The Dust Bowl forced tens of thousands of families to abandon their farms. Many of these families, who were often known as "[Okies](#)" because so many of them came from Oklahoma, migrated to California and other states to find that the Great Depression had rendered economic conditions there little better than those they had left.

The Dust Bowl area lies principally west of the 100th meridian on the High Plains, characterized by plains which vary from rolling in the north to flat in the Llano Estacado. Elevation ranges from 2,500 feet in the east to 6,000 feet at the base of the Rocky Mountains. The area is semiarid, receiving less than 20 inches of rain annually; this rainfall supports the shortgrass prairie biome originally present in the area. The region is also prone to extended drought, alternating with unusual wetness of equivalent duration. During wet years, the rich soil provides bountiful agricultural output, but crops fail during dry years. The region is also subject to high winds. The lack of surface water and timber made the region less attractive than other areas for pioneer settlement and agriculture. During early European and American exploration of the Great Plains, this region was thought unsuitable for European-style agriculture; explorers called it the [Great American Desert](#). But the federal government encouraged settlement and development of the Plains for agriculture via the [Homestead Act](#) of 1862, offering settlers 160-acre plots. With the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, waves of new migrants and immigrants reached the Great Plains, and they greatly

increased the acreage under cultivation. An unusually wet period in the Great Plains mistakenly led settlers and the federal government to believe that "rain follows the plow" (a popular phrase among real estate promoters) and that the climate of the region had changed permanently. While initial agricultural endeavors were primarily cattle ranching, the adverse effect of harsh winters on the cattle, beginning in 1886, a short drought in 1890, and general overgrazing, led many landown-

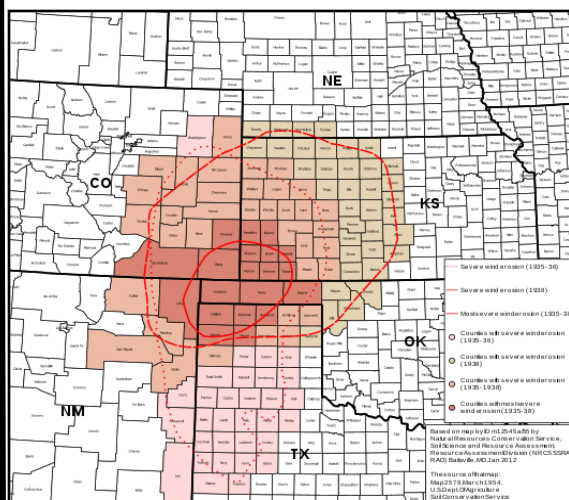


The Black Sunday dust storm of April 14 1935 approaching Rolla, Kansas,

ers to increase the amount of land under cultivation.

Recognizing the challenge of cultivating marginal arid land, the United States government expanded on the 160 acres offered under the Homestead Act—granting 640 acres to homesteaders in western Nebraska under the [Kinkaid Act](#) (1904) and 320 acres elsewhere in the Great Plains under the [Enlarged Homestead Act](#) (1909). Waves of European settlers arrived in the plains at the beginning of the 20th century. A return of unusually wet weather seemingly confirmed a previously held opinion that the "formerly" semiarid area could support large-scale agriculture. At the same time, technological improvements such as mechanized plowing and mechanized harvesting made it possible to operate larger properties without high labor costs. The combined effects of the disruption of the [Russian Revolution](#), which decreased the supply of wheat and other commodity crops, and [World War I](#) increased agricultural prices; this demand encouraged farmers to dramatically increase cultivation. For example, in the Llano Estacado of eastern New Mexico and

(continued on page 3)



Map of states and counties affected by the Dust Bowl between 1935 and 1938 originally prepared by the Soil Conservation Service. The most severely affected counties are colored darkest.



(Continued from page 2)

northwestern Texas, the area of farmland was doubled between 1900 and 1920, then tripled again between 1925 and 1930. The agricultural methods favored by farmers during this period created the conditions for large-scale erosion under certain environmental conditions. The widespread conversion of the land by deep plowing and other soil preparation methods to enable agriculture eliminated the native grasses which held the soil in place and helped retain moisture during dry periods. Furthermore, cotton farmers left fields bare during winter months, when winds in the High Plains are highest, and burned the stubble as a means to control weeds prior to planting, thereby depriving the soil of organic nutrients and surface vegetation.

#### Drought and dust storms

After fairly favorable climatic conditions in the 1920s with good rainfall and relatively moderate winters, which permitted increased settlement and cultivation in the Great Plains, the region entered an unusually dry era in the



A dust storm approaches Stratford, Texas, in 1935.

summer of 1930. During the next decade, the northern plains suffered four of their seven driest calendar years since 1895, Kansas four of its twelve driest, and the entire region south to West Texas lacked any period of above-normal rainfall until record rains hit in 1941. When severe drought struck the Great Plains region in the 1930s, it resulted in erosion and loss of topsoil because of farming practices at the time. The drought dried the topsoil and over time it became friable, reduced to a powdery consistency in some places. Without the indigenous grasses in place, the high winds that occur on the plains picked up the topsoil and created the massive dust storms that marked the Dust Bowl period. The persistent dry weather caused crops to fail, leaving the plowed fields exposed to wind erosion. The fine soil of the Great Plains was easily eroded and carried east by strong continental winds.

On November 11, 1933, a very strong dust storm stripped topsoil from desiccated South Dakota farmlands in just one of a series of severe dust storms that year. Beginning on May 9, 1934, a strong, two-day dust storm removed massive amounts of Great Plains topsoil in one of the worst such storms of the Dust Bowl. The dust clouds blew all the way to Chicago, where they deposited 12 million pounds of dust. Two days later, the same storm reached cities to the east, such as Cleveland, Buffalo, Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C.. That winter (1934-1935), red snow fell on New England.

On April 14, 1935, known as "[Black Sunday](#)," 20 of the worst "black blizzards" occurred across the entire sweep of the Great Plains, from Canada south to Texas. The dust storms caused extensive damage and turned the day to night; witnesses reported that they could not see five feet in front of them at certain points. Denver-based Associated Press reporter Robert E. Geiger happened to be in Boise City, Oklahoma that day. His story about Black Sunday marked the first appearance of the term *Dust Bowl*; it was coined by Edward Stanley, Kansas City news editor of the Associated Press, while rewriting Geiger's story.

In 1935, many families were forced to leave their farms and travel to other areas seeking work because of the drought (which at that time had already lasted four years). Dust Bowl conditions fomented an exodus of the displaced from Texas, Oklahoma, and the surrounding Great Plains to adjacent regions. More than 500,000 Americans were left homeless. Over 350 houses had to be torn down after one storm alone. The severe drought and dust storms left many homeless, others had their mortgages foreclosed by banks, and others felt they had no choice but to abandon their farms in search of work. Many Americans migrated west looking for work. Parents packed up "jalopies" with their families and a few



Buried machinery in a barn lot; Dallas, South Dakota, May 1936.

personal belongings, and headed west in search of work. Many residents of the Plains, especially in Kansas and Oklahoma, fell ill and died of [dust pneumonia](#) or malnutrition.

The Dust Bowl exodus was the largest migration in American history within a short period of time. Between 1930 and 1940, approximately 3.5 million people moved out of the Plains states—of those, it is unknown how many moved to California. But California records do show that in one year during the 1930s more than 86,000 people migrated to that state—more than the number of migrants to that area during the 1849 Gold Rush. Migrants abandoned farms in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico, but all were generally referred to as "Okies," "Arkies," or "Texies"—the standard terms for those who had lost everything and were struggling the most during the Great Depression. Not all migrants traveled long distances; some simply went to the next town or county. So many families left their farms and were on the move that the proportion between migrants and residents was nearly equal in the Great Plains states.



Historian James N. Gregory examined Census Bureau statistics and other records to learn more about the migrants. Based on a 1939 survey of occupation by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of about 116,000 families who arrived in California in the 1930s, he learned that only 43 percent of southwesterners were doing farm work immediately before they migrated. Nearly one-third of all migrants were professional or white-collar workers. The poor economy displaced more than just farmers as refugees to California; many teachers, lawyers, and small business owners moved west with their families during this time. After the Great Depression ended, some moved back to their original states, but many remained where they had resettled. He found that about one-eighth of California's population was of Okie heritage.

## CGHS Banquet To Feature R.F. Gish With a Revealing Look at Cheyenne's World War II Housing Projects

A former Cheyenne resident—Robert Frederick Gish, a Careyville kid—remembers the memories that he and others had growing up in a local government housing project built to handle employees and their families brought to Cheyenne during World War II to work on war-related projects. Such projects included outfitting and upgrading hundreds of B-17s, B-24s, and PBVs (widely used sea-planes) at the Cheyenne Regional Airport; constructing and managing a 100-octane plant for fuel for the war effort at the Frontier Refinery; increased efforts of a large quartermaster-training center at Fort F.E. Warren as well as ongoing war support from United Airlines and the Union Pacific Railroad and other projects. Cheyenne didn't have housing for employees and their families working for these war-related industries. The Cheyenne population had shot up from 23,000 people in 1940 to an estimated 34,000 in October 1942. The housing shortage had become so acute that many of the workers connected to a United Airlines project underway in the capital city had to be bused in from Greeley or Fort Collins, Colo., each day. To alleviate the housing shortage, the

the projects were loosened, allowing his family to move into the project housing. The Gish family moved to Cheyenne from Mead, Colorado after the blizzard of 1949. They moved into the housing project on the north side of Pershing at Logan Avenue by the name of Careyville Acres. Robert "Fred" Gish spent his childhood growing up in Careyville. The children were moved from school to school and referred to as "Project Kids" or "Careyville Kids." The neighbors near Careyville did not want the project to be built. Residents were considered second-class citizens and were stigmatized by many others in town. In 2012 Gish started searching the internet and local sources and only found minimum information. But since then he has embarked on a quest to immortalize the projects and residents by collecting news articles and personal testimony into a new book, "Cheyenne, Wyoming; 1940-1955," which features period newspaper articles, photographs and oral histories that center on the temporary housing projects in and around Cheyenne during and immediately after World War II. Along the way, he tossed in other miscellaneous material regarding "Cheyenne's Rich History

supporting WWII." He is pleased to be presenting some of this history to the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society and their guests at their annual end-of-year banquet and program.

The CGHS annual dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 9, beginning at 5:30

p.m. in the Yellowstone Room of the Cheyenne Radisson (204 West Fox Farm Road) with check-in and a silent auction as a prelude to dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Reservations with choice of entree selection (herb roasted chicken or petite beef sirloin) and check for the dinner, which is **\$17, must be received by May 1, 2017**, sent to CGHS, P.O. Box 2539, Cheyenne, WY 82003. There is a program-only (no dinner) option for \$5.00, with the same deadline.



government constructed three low-cost projects to house the overflow—Careyville Acres, Frontier Villa Estates and Van Tassell Terrace. Initially behind schedule, the three projects weren't completed until 1943 and 1944. And though they were originally slated to be demolished after the war ended in August 1945, many of the new residents chose to stay in Cheyenne, and the housing shortage persisted into the next decade. Gish said that after the war, restrictions on who could move into

## A Genealogical Mystery, much like a "Nancy Drew" Challenge...Now Solved

Picking up the mail once or twice a week for the Genealogical Society seems like a simple thing, but occasionally something really exciting happens! A few weeks ago there was a padded envelope unlike most of the mail we receive. In the return address area there were only initials and a last name with an email address. What could this be? Of course, I opened it right away! Inside was a photograph on cardboard of a beautiful young family with one young girl. On the back was written "Carlos and Elida Accardo-Bonura, 1918." The child's name was written on it, too. I think it was Maria, a pretty little girl with long, dark curls, 4 years old. The curious sender had taken the time to search the name. She found a FindAGrave entry in Mt. Olivet in Cheyenne and wrote it on the back. "Elida had passed away just a few years later, in 1922." It was mailed to the Society with no instructions. I sent this message back to the email address:

*"I picked up the Genealogical Society's mail yesterday and received the photograph you sent of Elida Accardo-Bonura. Did you send the photo to be delivered to someone specifically in the Society...or were you benevolent and hoped we could locate the family here in Cheyenne that are descendants of Elida or Carlos? What a beautiful photograph! I would love to be able to tell the story of how the photograph was located. Anyway, Thank You! We will try very hard to deliver it to someone in that family."*

And the response: "That would be great if you can find someone from the family. Otherwise pass it on to an historical society? I found it in a box of photos in an antique store in Ault, Colorado. The owner of the store said the photos were in a suitcase in a storage unit in Cheyenne. Since all the photos had prices on the back, I think the suitcase owner ran an antique store in Cheyenne? That's the story."

I took the photo to the Genealogy Room. A few days later Sharon Field emailed me that she and Wanda Wade had looked at the photo, and one of them knew someone that might be related...a clue. We have some terrific detectives in the Society! I was able to email the kind lady back: "A couple of our researchers have found an Accardo relative. The photograph is being sent to her. Thank you so much for your consideration to send the photo to Cheyenne. I am sure it will be a treasure to the family." **Jo Butler**



## Genealogy News You Can Use...

### FGS Extends Invitation to Attend Their 2017 Conference: "Building Bridges to the Past"

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) announces online registration is now open for their 2017 Conference, which is open to all who have an interest in finding their past. Whether you are beginning your genealogy adventure or have been at it for decades, join fellow genealogists and family historians Aug. 30–Sep. 2, 2017 at the David L.

Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. This year's local host is the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the theme is "Building Bridges to the Past." Register by July 1, 2017 for the early-bird discount at

<http://www.FGSConference.org>. An 8-page pdf download is also available at <http://fgs.org/upload/files/FGS2017-ProgramPreview.pdf>

Rorey Cathcart, FGS President, said "FGS Conferences offer genealogists of all skill levels an incredible learning opportunity as well as a chance to meet

others who share their passion. Whether you are beginning your genealogy adventure or have been at it for decades, FGS welcomes all. With a day devoted to programming for society leaders and members, followed by three days of genealogy programming that features world-famous speakers, exciting workshops, a variety of special events and luncheons, FGS 2017

and the unexpected charms of Pittsburgh. In "Take the Unexpected Bridge," he will explore the idea that when searching for information of any sort, from historic and genealogical to gastronomic and adventurous, often the best route is along unfamiliar roads and across unexpected bridges. Conference sessions include four full days of ses-

sions, workshops, and interactive seminars. Learning tracks include Immigrant/Ethnic, Records, Regional, DNA, Methodology, Analysis, Skills, African American, Land & Taxes, Religion, Occupations, and more. Exhibits, a dinner cruise, and programs tailored especially for societies, and librarians

and archivists will round out the agenda. Attendees of all skill levels will find new ways to uncover more about their family history.



has something unique to interest all attendees. Don't miss your chance to join the Federation for a fun-filled and informative experience in Pittsburgh!"

One of the conference highlights will be keynote speaker, Rick Sebak, whose wacky documentaries now celebrate various aspects of modern American life

### Findmypast Launches Online "Catholic Heritage Archive"

Leading family history website, [Findmypast](http://Findmypast), recently announced the creation of the [Roman Catholic Heritage Archive](http://Findmypast), a ground breaking initiative that aims to digitize the historic records of the Catholic Church in the United States, Britain and Ireland. Findmypast released over three million exclusive records including sacramental registers for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from 1757 to 1916 as well as for the British Archdioceses of Westminster and Birmingham from 1657 onwards. This builds on last year's publication of more than 10 million Irish Catholic parish registers.

The Catholic Church holds some of the oldest and best preserved genealogical records ever created. However, as many of these documents memorialize important religious sacraments such as baptism, marriage and burial, their privacy has long been protected and access to original copies has traditionally been hard to come by. In collaboration with various Archdioceses of the Catholic Church, Findmypast is helping to bring these records online in one unified collection for the first time ever. Exclusively available on Findmypast, images of original documents will be completely free to view in many cases. Fully searchable transcripts will also be included, providing family historians from the around the world with easy access to these once closely guarded records.

The next phase of the Catholic Heritage Archive will include records from the Archdioceses of New York and Baltimore as well as additional records from Philadelphia. There are over 30 million records in just these three dioceses. The digitization of the whole archive is a monumental undertaking and, when complete, will contain hundreds of millions of records for the USA alone spanning 300 years of Catholic history.

Brian Donovan, Licensing Manager at Findmypast said; "The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world. Despite the popular perception that it had few adherents in Britain, or was not that important in American settlement, it has always been a significant component (up to 25%) of the population. The Catholic Heritage Archive will uncover the history of millions of Irish, Italian, German, Polish and many other nationalities as they made new homes in the USA."

### BillionGraves Announces A Beta Version of "BillionGraves Tree"

BillionGraves has expanded their partnership with FamilySearch FamilyTree to bring users a whole new level of connecting, finding and growing family trees. They have listed the following innovations for users of their new offering:

- Connect your FamilySearch Family Tree with BillionGraves which will allow you to seamlessly connect and create record sources on FamilySearch for existing records, adding crucial validation to solidify your tree.

- Find the final resting place of your ancestors using their exclusive GPS and hinting systems which will search billions of records.

- Get a photo for every person in your tree by using their exclusive access to over 700,000 volunteers around the world to automatically seek out and photograph the missing graves in your tree.

- Become a part of the future of BillionGraves by syncing your FamilySearch FamilyTree with BillionGraves and start growing your tree faster than ever.

- Follow the link below to gain exclusive access to the beta version of the BillionGraves Tree:

<https://BillionGraves.com/Tree#/>

**Cheyenne  
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To contact CGHS or to  
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suggestions and/or  
articles, send a note to  
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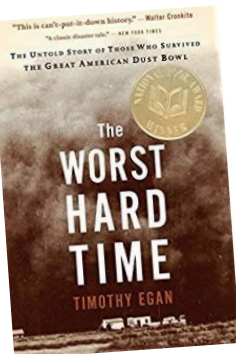
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The Cheyenne Genealogical &  
Historical Society welcomes  
these new members who have  
recently joined the organization:  
—Bob & Linda Graff



## "Check This Out"

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



### ***The Worst Hard Time***

by Timothy Egan c 2006

Mariner Books, Boston; 352 pp

The dust storms that terrorized America's High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the deaths of loved ones. Drawing on the voices of those who stayed and survived—those who were in their eighties and nineties and who would soon carry their memories to the grave—Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. As only great history can, Egan's book, *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* captures the very voice of the times: its grit, pathos, and abiding courage. Combining the human drama of living in a deepening environmental crisis with the tragedy of the Great Depression, *The Worst Hard Time* is a lasting and important work of American history. Timothy Egan is a national enterprise reporter for the *New York Times* and the author of four books and the recipient of several other awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

—Living in the "high desert" plains with nasty winds, minimum rainfall and blowing dust makes one have a grand appreciation for the hardy stock it took to settle this part of the country. Egan attributes the Dust Bowl tragedy to reckless agricultural misuse of the land, and he tells "vivid" and "poignant" stories about individual farmers and their families. Getting to know these families as well as the truth behind the disaster, brought to life a part of our Great Plains history in a most real way. —WLD

—Egan's book is an epic story of blind hope and endurance almost beyond belief; it is also, as Tim Egan has told it, a riveting tale of bumpkins, political chicanery, and a ruinous ignorance of nature's ways. Egan has reached across the generations and brought us the people who played out the drama in this devastated land, and uses their voices to tell the story as well as it could ever be told." — Marq de Villiers, author of *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource*

—Compiled Book Review by Amazon, Wendy Douglass and Marq de Villiers

### ***Did You Know...***

The 1940 and 1950 census enumeration district maps are online in the National Archives Catalog. Go to <https://catalog.archives.gov/advancedsearch> and where it says "search term" - type in enumeration district map (your state {or} your county) and where it says "record group number" - type in 29. If you want to limit to one of those census years, you can add 1940 or 1950 to the search term. Confused? Try this sample search: 1950 enumeration district map Cuyahoga. (Source: National Archives)