

## Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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# Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Musings by the President . . .

#### Want a better society? Get involved!

Of course the obvious way to get involved is to pay your dues and attend the monthly meetings, which you do. At the meetings you may be asked to give your opinions or suggestions about pertinent topics. Please respond. We're always looking for suggestions and ideas for programs for our meetings or special events. How can your officers provide programs you like if we don't know what you want? Another way to make your society better by getting involved is to serve on the board. We'll be holding elections in the fall and we are still looking for a president. Being president isn't that hard—take it from one who has done it twice. Basically all that's required is to make up the agendas for the board meeting and the membership meeting once a month, conduct the monthly meetings and be able to delegate. You might say, "Well, I may not be able to attend every meeting." No problem! I missed two monthly meetings this year and the society survived just fine.

Another very important way to get involved is to serve on a committee. Right now we have the October Family History Month Committee and the Cemetery Walk Committee looking for volunteers. The Family History Month Committee is looking at a Saturday in October to offer some genealogy classes at the library. Talk to a Board member to volunteer or offer suggestions. The Cemetery Walk Committee is looking for 4 or 5 people to help at the front gate of Lakeview Cemetery the morning of the Walk getting the people going in the right direction. Talk to Robin Everett to volunteer. Another way to help—sign up to bring refreshments to a monthly membership meeting. We need two volunteers each month, one to bring snacks and one to bring drinks. There are many ways to get involved.. Find something you would like to do. We need you! You are important to the society! Who else will do it if you don't?



*Sue Seniauski, President*

### A Message From Your Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society Board Members

We want to let you know that in light of all the events that are happening around us and because most of our members are in that enlightened age-group of over 65, we have decided that it is prudent to limit our gatherings and support everyone's stay-at-home time from March through May. We will not be holding our CGHS events in April and May...no board meetings, no society meetings, no banquet--we have cancelled those events, and our election of officers is postponed until fall (thanks to current officers willing to extend their commitments). We will continue to communicate by email and Facebook....so watch for opportunities to participate in genealogy enrichment events online, and take this time to work on your research, read those articles, newsletters and books that you have set aside, visit those websites you have wanted to explore, and take care of yourselves for the duration of our quarantine time. **We will still take your dues mailed to our post office box [CGHS, P.O. Box 2539, Cheyenne, WY 82003-2539-- \$20 for an individual; \$30 for a family],** so that we can continue with our behind-the-scenes work, including looking for those requested books that will benefit members' research, and planning for down the road. Email or call any board member with your questions, suggestions, or to volunteer and let us know if there is anything that we can do for you—our valued members...As one quote sums it up (especially genealogically thinking)—**"Our parents were called to war. We're being called on to sit on the couch. We can do this!"**

#### Upcoming Events:

13 Apr 2020  
"Using the Family Search Catalog" 10:00 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

14 Apr 2020  
"Overview of Family Search" 10:00 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

13-17 Apr 2020  
"European Handwriting Seminar-Russian"-5 sessions over 5 days, 1:00 p.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

23 Apr 2020  
"English Research Seminar"-5 sessions over 2 days, various times  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

2 May 2020  
**(Still scheduled-check for updates)**  
"From Pilgrims to Patriots: Researching Early New England Ancestors" [American Ancestors Conference](#)  
9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Colorado History Center, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver, Colo.  
Cost: \$125—includes 5 lectures, lunch, reception; register at 617-226-1226.

20-23 May 2020  
**(Still scheduled-check for updates)**  
"Echoes of Our Ancestors: National Genealogical Society Conference" Salt Lake City, Utah  
Register at <https://conference.ngsgenology.org/tag/echoes-of-our-ancestors/>

8 Sept 2020  
Monthly Meeting & Program to be decided  
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society  
6:45-8:30 p.m.,  
Laramie County Library

## Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague: Donna Rae Symmonds-DiNino

This newsletter column will introduce 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?

Donna Rae Symmonds-DiNino

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

No, however there is an interesting story as to how I got my name.

*(Editor's note: I urged her to tell the story :-)* You asked for it! How I got my name... My Dad had a girlfriend named Donna before he ever met my Mom. He went into the Air Force and they kept in touch. However, she later married and had a child but died during childbirth. Being an early girlfriend, my Dad had an attachment to her name. Now why would any woman in their right mind want to name their child after her husband's ex-girlfriend? It wasn't until I was doing research into my Mom's side of the family that I discovered this story. Our family clan name is "Robertson" also known as "Donnachaidh". My Mom was a very proud Scottish lady and because of the clan name, I believe she was OK with using that name. That's my 'Donna Story' and I'm sticking with it!

### What is your maternal ethnic heritage?

Scottish

### What is your paternal ethnic heritage?

English, German, Swedish

### Give your maternal surnames three generations back:

Blane, Clement, Robertson

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

Harris, Haskins, Getman

### Give a few generations of your spouse's female surnames:

My husband Richard "Ric's" maternal line is Newell, Greathouse and Vanhorn.



Margaret and Thomas Blane, Donna's maternal grandparents; photo taken about 1953.

### Provide some information about yourself, your background, your family...

I was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. When I was a few months old we moved to New York. I have six siblings. When I was 15 we moved to Cheyenne. I am married with one daughter and a grandson.

### When did you start doing genealogy?

Ten years ago.

### What got you interested in this crazy hobby?

My parents started the research in the 1990s. Just before my Mom passed away in 2009, she asked me to continue the work because I had been interested in the research my parents had done. I'm sure that's why my Mom asked me to be the one to continue it.

### Are you doing direct-line only or collateral research?

Both.

### Who in (or outside) your family provided you with the most background?

In my family it would be my parents. Outside I have been in contact with third cousins who have helped to add to my family's story.

### What is the furthest back that you have researched; what have you found?

I have researched back to the 1600s on my paternal grandmother's side. My 9<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, Thomas Harris and his brother William Harris along with a Roger Williams settled and chartered the town of Providence, Rhode Island. My 8<sup>th</sup> gr uncle, Stephen Hopkins, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Rhode Island. My 9<sup>th</sup> gr grandmother, Elizabeth Peake Arnold, is a sister of Benedict Arnold.

### What is the most interesting/funniest/most bizarre story you have uncovered? Explain what it was and was it accurate? If not, why not? What did you discover that disproved the initial information?

This is my brick wall. My 2<sup>nd</sup> gr grandfather, Merritt Symmonds, was and still is, a mystery in many ways. A few years back I received from a third cousin a verbatim copy of a letter dated March 1886. This was the first time I was even aware that this grandfather had a sister. In the letter it listed her children and reference to, I believe, other siblings (which I have not been able to find). The last paragraph in the letter says "Have you seen the newspaper notice about the Roger A. Merritt estate? It's claiming his estate is worth 10 to 20 million dollars (remember the year?). The land in question is in Port Chester, Westchester County, NY. She says she can prove that they are related and are entitled to a portion of the estate." Now I know where he got his first name! The paragraph goes on to state that she was going into town (Meadville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania) to file paperwork in regard to the claim. I have been suspecting that a "Samuel Symonds" is his father  
(continued on page 3)



## Her Ancestors Include an 8th Great Uncle Who Signed the Declaration of Independence

(continued from page 2)

and his mother's name is Mary. I have found newspaper articles in regard to this estate and one of them even lists ten Simmons family members, which include a Mary and a Samuel. It states that Samuel is the executor of Mary's estate. I believe that this Samuel is their son and maybe Merritt's and Ruby's brother. *This is my brick wall.* I am stuck between two generations and have not been able to find the connection. (Point of interest--If you have ever been to New York there is a "Merritt Freeway" that runs from New York City up into Rhode Island. That road was named after this family.) My DNA does match a lot of other Merritt's—but I still have not found the connection.

**Do you have anyone famous in your tree? If so, tell us who and a bit about this ancestor:**

That would be the Harris brothers and my 9<sup>th</sup> gr grandmother, Elizabeth Peake Arnold, who was the sister of Benedict Arnold. (See the answer to "What is the furthest back that you have researched.")



A Symmonds Oil Well—her great grandfather Merritt Symmonds stands near an early oil well—it's rumored he helped drill the first well in the USA in 1859.

**Do you think it is important to share your research or keep it to yourself? Why?**

Sharing is such a wonderful way to get to know distant cousins and also hear stories of their families

and how they relate to what you have always been told.

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

Yes., I have taken a DNA test and it has confirmed that my research to date is on track to what others have in their trees. My "confounded" part is that the DNA test came back showing Swedish—I have found Swedish names in my DNA research but I haven't a clue as to where they fit into the family yet.

**Where/what place are you yearning to visit to find information?**

On my Mom's side, I have a trip planned to Scotland this summer and hope to find out more information about my family from my cousins who live over there.

On my Dad's side, I would like to visit Crawford County, Pennsylvania to try and dig into the Symonds family there.

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

I use Ancestry to keep track of my family tree. I also have beginning trees on Family Search and My Heritage. I love going to the Family History Center here in Cheyenne as they have been a wonderful resource in helping me to further my research.

**Do you use timelines or research plans to help you stay on track or learn what you need to research? Explain...**

I use timelines, spreadsheets, maps and more. Depending on the situation and what I am trying to find/verify/track, I use all options available to me. Most of these I have found online and they are all free.

**Are you a skatter-shot, jump-around, location-focused, plow-through-one-line-only, or grab-em-all-in-a-family type of researcher? Explain a bit...**

I usually try to focus on one family at a time.

**Do you have a favorite place, method or time for doing your researching?**

My favorite place is my TV/ Genealogy Room. I do most of my research watching TV a few hours before I go to bed.



Chet & Maude (Harris) Symonds, Donna's paternal grandparents.

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

I use Ancestry and Family Search online. I use Family Tree Maker for my desktop.

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

The one I mentioned above on the Symonds side.

**Have you ever had a serendipity moment in doing genealogy (when something you weren't expecting appeared or surfaced unexplained? Tell us about it:**

While researching my husband's maternal side, I found out that he and I are 10<sup>th</sup> cousins 2x removed!  
(continued on page 4)

## Donna DiNino's Best Research Advice: 'Keep Good Notes!'

(Continued from page 3)

**What is the most recent "Ahah!" moment you have had?**

I am finding a pattern of some of those Simmons names listed in the newspaper article and how they moved. Many of them ended up along the Rocky Mountain foothill cities.

**Do you have a favorite website? Why is it your favorite?**

Ancestry is my favorite, and I like *Genealogy Bank* for newspaper research. Most of the other sites I use relate to family research that I have done.

**What is your biggest frustration, irritant or money-waster in this "line of fun"?**

Keeping track of things! I have a wonderful niece who is helping me to get things organized so we are making process and it feels good!

**How do you save and store your records, organize your results (paper, digital, notebooks, folders, backups)?**

I have lots of three-inch binders that contain information on each

family, and I have my "To Do" files on each family. I also have a lot of my information saved digitally and I am currently working on organizing it.

**What is your long-term goal for your research?**

I have decided to work strictly on direct-line ancestors. I want to go back and add any additional information that I can find on grandparent lines and not so much siblings (except for that brick wall that might help me find an important clue).

**Do you have anyone in your family that will take over your research and continue this adventure? Who is it and why are they the selected, volunteer or chosen one?**

I don't know if anyone will take over my research. I have instructed my family once I'm gone as to whom or what group to contact to see if they are interested in this information for their files.

**What or how (if anything) have you paid forward, given back, or shared your expertise?**

I am currently helping a niece-in-law that does not know who her father is. I purchased a DNA kit and donated it to her to help her out. I just LOVE helping others in their research!

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

It is so important to keep good notes and records. I myself have typed up a lot of information given to me over the years and have saved it digitally and on Ancestry for others down the line.



## So, Who Is Randy Majors and Why Should You Be Aware of His Creations?

*This article is compiled from Dick Eastman's Online Newsletters of 31 Jan 2020, 3 Mar 2020 and 24 Mar 2020.*

Randy Majors is a name well-known within the genealogy community. He is the person who has created all those add-ons for Google Maps, adding county lines and much more information to the maps than what Google ever imagined. He has created an "add-on" to assist users in searching Ancestry or FamilySearch. It is his free Historical U.S. Counties Auto-Checker extension for Google Chrome, which automatically checks that the county existed in the year you are searching, warns of boundary changes, and links to historical county lines on Google Maps for the place and years you are searching.

More recently he has created "Ancestor Search on Google Search." According to an internet study, Google is adding an average of 68 million new web pages to its search index every day! **What if one of those new pages contains a mention of one of your ancestors?** Think of all of the possibilities: new archives coming online all the time, old books and newspapers being scanned, people writing genealogy blog posts, newly indexed records becoming searchable...and so much more. So how do you make sure you don't miss something important? To make it easier to remain informed about new pages that contain a mention of your ancestor, you can now set a Google Alert in the Randy Majors.com [AncestorSearch on Google Search](https://www.randymajors.com/20/01/sowhat-is-randymajorscom-research-hub.html). To read more about him and his creations, and how you can use them, start at:

<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=site%3Aeogn.com+%22Randy+Majors>.

To learn how to set up and use these tools, visit: <https://www.randymajors.com/20/01/sowhat-is-randymajorscom-research-hub.html>

## Wanted: Volunteers for "Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague"

This newsletter editor is seeking volunteers who will share some of their research for the column, "Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague." The column's purpose is to introduce readers to the genealogical work of members of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society, to help them get to know their colleagues, provide a few ideas or hints to help them in their own research, and maybe even discover a family connection in another person's research. If you would like to participate and share your research through a series of provided questions & answers, please notify the **Cheyenne Genealogy Journal** editor:

[Wendywy04@aol.com](mailto:Wendywy04@aol.com) with your name and contact information.



## Learning From History: In 1665, Bubonic Plague—the Black Death—Was So Deadly an English Village Quarantined Itself to Save Others & Stop the Spread of the Disease

This article was written by Zach Purser Brown\*, March 2, 2020 and is reprinted from *The Washington Post*.

It was called the Black Death. And it was far deadlier than coronavirus. As governments around the world impose quarantines to prevent the spread of covid-19, it is worth remembering the extraordinary story of Eyam, England, the Derbyshire village that faced an outbreak of the bubonic plague in the 17th century. In September 1665, George Viccars, a tailor's assistant in Eyam, unloaded a bundle of flea-infested blankets from London. Bubonic plague had recently broken out in the capital in the latest wave of a centuries-long pandemic that swept throughout Europe and the Middle East, killing millions. Within a week, Viccars was dead. Panic set in. Six weeks after the outbreak, some 29 Eyam residents had died. The parish staggered through the winter, with the number of deaths dropping. In May, there were no deaths at all, and the villagers believed the outbreak was over. But the disease had mutated. "Instead of having to contract the disease by a flea-rat-flea human cycle of infection" says local historian Francine Clifford, "it got into the lungs and became pulmonary."

As summer rolled around, the plague made a blistering return. By June 1666, Eyam's newly arrived rector William Mompesson realized the need to contain the disease and began to formulate a quarantine plan. Eyam lay on an important trade route between Sheffield and Manchester; if plague got into those cities, thousands would die. But this was England in the wake of a religious civil war, with the Crown restored just five years earlier. So Eyam residents were skeptical of their new priest and remained loyal to the Mompesson's Puritan predecessor,



A cottage in Eyam, England, where several victims of the bubonic plague lived. (Photo by Alina Hartounian)

Thomas Stanley, who was living in retirement on the edge of the village. Mompesson persuaded Stanley of his plan, and, despite their religious differences, they called a meeting in the parish church and appealed the crowd to voluntarily isolate the village. Believing they faced near-certain death if they remained but could cause the death of thousands if they left, the residents of Eyam agreed. A quarantine cordon was established with a one-mile radius marked by a ring of stones. For 14 months nobody went in or out of the village. Food was left at the boundary stone by nearby townspeople in exchange for gold coins submerged in vinegar, which villagers believed would disinfect them. The death-rate skyrocketed.

During its seclusion, Eyam suffered. Bodies piled up; families were instructed to bury their own dead on the outskirts of town. One woman, Elizabeth Hancock, buried six of her children and her husband inside a month. Mompesson himself described the village in one of his letters:

"My ears have never heard such doleful lamentations. My nose has never smelt such noisome smells, and my eyes have never beheld such ghastly spectacles." His wife, Catherine, died on August 25, 1666. It was, he said, "a Golgotha; a place of skulls."

Measures were taken within Eyam to limit cross infection. Sermons were held outside, bodies were no longer wheeled through the street and some villagers left their homes to camp on the surrounding hills. "It

was extremely foresighted of them," says Clifford, "because that's not the way things were normally done."

In all, 260 of Eyam's estimated 800 residents perished during the quarantine, more than double the mortality rate of the Great Plague of London. But Mompesson and the villagers' self-sacrifice had worked. The plague never spread to nearby towns and, 14 months later, in November 1667, the quarantine was lifted.



A visitor places a coin on Eyam's boundary stone. During the quarantine, food was left at the stone by nearby townspeople in exchange for gold coins submerged in vinegar, which villagers believed would disinfect them. (Photo by Alina Hartounian)

"It was very successful because nobody outside the village ever contracted the disease," says Clifford, who has lived in Eyam for 36 years. In 1842, William Wood, one the Eyam survivors' descendants, wrote in a history of the village: "The immortal victors of Thermopylae and Marathon have no stronger claim to the admiration of succeeding generations than the villagers of Eyam, who in a sublime, unparalleled resolution gave up their lives — yea: doomed themselves to pestilential death to save the surrounding country."

\*Zach Purser Brown is a political video editor covering the White House, Capitol Hill and the 2020 campaign for *The Washington Post*. He relocated to Washington, D.C., in 2019 from Sky News in London, where he covered Westminster politics and Brexit. He previously worked for BBC Newsnight and has reported from Central Asia and Iran.

## Mississippi State University Libraries to Digitize Records of Enslaved Mississippians

Mississippi State University's Libraries are helping create the state's first institutionally supported digital database intended to give greater access to legal records identifying victims of slavery.

The Lantern Project is one of only a few in the South and is funded by a \$340,424 grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Committee, a branch of the National Archives. In addition to MSU Libraries, the University of Mississippi Libraries, Delta State University, the Historic Natchez Foundation, Columbus-Lowndes County Public Library and the Montgomery County (Alabama) Archives also are participating.

This undertaking compiles a wealth of 19th-century documents from across the South and, upon completion, will provide a fully text-

*List of slaves owned by one in the County of Wilcox at the time of the surrender of Gen. Lee's army in April 1865, with their ages and value according to the prices which such slaves sold for in cash (Spring standard) on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1861.*

Name of Slave	Date of Birth	Age Jan 1861	Age April 1865	Value
James McLean	Nov. 1830	30 yrs 2 m 5 d	36 yrs 7 m 5 d	1200
Melvin "	Oct. 1834	29 " 5 "	35 " 6 "	1000
John "	Aug. 9, 1839	21 " 5 "	27 " 8 "	1000
Lucas "	Sept. 3, 1846	14 " 6 "	18 " 7 "	800
Wesley "	Oct. 1, 1841	20 "	26 " 10 "	500
London "	Aug. 3, 1856	4 " 8 m 9 d	8 " 5 m 9 d	500
William "	March 1, 1857	3 " 10 "	7 " 10 "	400
Elizabeth "	Jan. 1, 1850	11 " 9 "	15 " 12 "	400

searchable, indexed collection containing digital images of original documents that include individuals' names and detailed physical descriptions. Primarily inspired by patron need, the project is based

on a similar effort at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture called "Unknown No Longer."

The database will utilize records created or used by slave owners or the legal system to track enslaved persons, such as inventories, bills of sale, and probate and other court records, which will allow scholars and genealogists to trace victims' movements and empower descendants to uncover their ancestries and reconstruct family trees impacted by slavery.

You can read more in an article on the Mississippi State University website at: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2020/02/celebrating-black-history-msu-libraries-digitize-records-enslaved>.

## "Explore Historical Images" Tool Unlocks Data in FamilySearch's Millions of Digital Records That Are Not Yet Indexed or Text-Searchable But Can Be Browsed Using Basic Information

Have you ever tried searching for your ancestor's name in online records? FamilySearch and their partners and volunteers worldwide have worked to make over 3 billion records easily findable online with a very simple name search. But did you know that these indexed records represent only 20 percent of the historical records FamilySearch has available online? If you haven't found your ancestors by using the [main search form](#) on FamilySearch.org, it may be that their information is locked inside a waiting-to-be-indexed digital image. In 2018 alone, FamilySearch added over 432 million new record images to its online collections. But it can take years to catalog and index these images so they can be readily searched. Fortunately, the tools for finding the record image you need online are improving dramatically. Well ahead of any formal indexing or cataloging, the new FamilySearch Explore Historical Images tool can help you find records about your ancestors more easily, even when their information is not text-searchable and seems to be locked inside a digital image. Explore Historical Images marks the beginning of a new and different search experience and can help you navigate images of historical records that could contain information about your ancestors. Although you aren't able to search for your ancestor by name direct-

ly, you are able to narrow your search by place, date, and other information that was captured when the image was taken. To try out the tool, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/> then select **Search**, then **Images**, sign in, then follow these steps:

1. Search for Records from a Specific Place

Start by typing in a significant place for your ancestor (for example, where the person was born, wed or buried). To narrow your search, you can also add a date (or date range), life event, and other fields (using the advanced search). Then click **Search Image Groups**. Tip: As you are typing, click the suggestions for standardized dates and locations for more accurate results.

2. Pick a Record Collection to Browse  
Explore Historical Images shows you the relevant record collections it finds. To learn what is in each collection, look at the basic information that was gathered when the images were taken. Different columns may show you the place, type of record, dates, and volume information for the collection. You may find collections with vital records (birth, marriage, and death records), church records, civil records, military records, population counts, and more. Tip: To toggle

columns on and off, click the **Show** button in the top right. If you have too many results or too few, use the left side bar to narrow and broaden your search. Add or take away dates, use the map to see nearby locations, and click on location links to widen or narrow the area you are searching. Then click **Update**.

Sometimes record collections in your results may appear to be the same at first, but you'll find as you explore them that each one is unique. Even if the basic information isn't very descriptive, don't be afraid to click a result to see what it contains!

3. Browse Record Images

Once you pick an image collection, a browsing window shows you thumbnails of each image. Looking at these thumbnails, you may see indexes, section markers, or title pages that can help you learn more about what is in the record set.

4. Attach Relevant Records

When you find a record image that is relevant for your ancestor, use the blue **Attach to Family Tree** button in the upper right to attach it to your ancestor's profile. As you add this source to your relative's profile, you can also note important information on the image so you and others can read it more easily.



# Genealogy News You Can Use...

## Lock-Downs, Stay-at-Home Orders, Social Distancing—Provide Learning Opportunities

Concerns about the health and safety of everyone has curtailed even ordinary trips and visits, but that doesn't have to stop avid genealogists from expanding their knowledge, polishing their family trees, and working on those brick walls! I went through some major genealogy sites and gleaned this list of opportunities that now can be had for free or through memberships while you are quarantined at home. Please squeeze some of these opportunities in between the face-time videos of your kids and grandkids and your macaroni & cheese dinners! Use your stay-at-home-time to its best advantage!

### **Ancestry Academy**

Ancestry Academy's extensive library of videos allow you to watch videos and courses when you want, and how you want. Watch a series of videos on a common subject, or pick and choose as you go, with Academy offering suggestions on new videos to watch along the way. Many of their videos are only a few minutes long, allowing you to get the information quickly. Best of all, all videos and courses on Ancestry Academy are free. <https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse>

### **Brigham Young University Family History Library**

The BYU Family History Library hosts a series of online webinars that allows you to learn from family history experts without being at the library. It is easy to connect to these webinars and view them on your own computer or mobile device. Click on the link below to see the current live webinar schedule and view past presentations: <https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/youtube-videos/>

### **Cyndi's List**

For a list of online courses and webinars on genealogy topics, see Cyndi's List at:

<https://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars/>

### **FamilySearch Webinars**

Despite the temporary closure of the Family History Library in Salt Lake, FamilySearch is continuing to provide their internet classes through webinars. For a list of upcoming webinars go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en> See past webinars [here](#).

### **Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

Every day in April they will be offering free webinars on topics ranging from land records, DNA to Native American research.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

### **RootsTech Videos**

Watch past sessions/years of RootsTech as well as RootsTech 2020. Included are keynote speakers & general sessions at: <https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

### **The Family History Guide**

The Family History Guide has so many video and print opportunities. Their "Learning System" helps you learn and do family history work on FamilySearch, Ancestry, and more. As you research, QUIKLinks help you do record searches easily and efficiently. The Tracker helps you monitor your learning progress to work smarter. <https://www.thefhguide.com/>

### **UK National Archives**

From army musters to medieval record research, the UK National Archives has many media offerings for genealogists—and they're all free and easy to access at: <https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

### **You Tube**

So many choices! from Ancestry's "The Barefoot Genealogist" and Lisa Louise Cooke's "Genealogy Gems" to "Family History Fanatics" and National Geographic and more, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "genealogy" for literally hundreds of topics.



### **Genealogy Blogs Worth Reading**

This is an excerpt from an article by Kimberly Powell on [ThoughtCo](#), on 9 Jan 2020.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of genealogy and family history blogs online, offering a daily or weekly dose of education, enlightenment and entertainment. While many of these blogs offer outstanding reading and current information, the following are favorites of mine for their excellent writing and timely updates.

#### **-- The Genea-Musings**

Randy Seaver's blog stands here as a representative for the many great family history bloggers. His site includes enough of an eclectic mix of news, research process, personal reflections, and genealogy debate to make it of interest to almost any genealogist. He shares his research successes and failures so you might learn from them.

#### **—The Genealogue**

Many of you probably already read Chris Dunham regularly, but if you haven't, you're in for a treat. His unique brand of genealogy humor puts a special spin on just about everything genealogy, from interesting items culled from old newspapers to tongue-in-cheek commentary on current genealogy news and products, to a regular genealogy challenge to keep us all on our toes.

#### **—Ancestry Insider**

This "unofficial, unauthorized view" offers current reports, updates and yes, even criticisms, of the big genealogy Web sites, especially Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. This blog is often the first to report on new updates, products, and announcements from the "big" genealogy organizations.

#### **—Genealogy Blog**

Leland Meitzler and Joe Edmon, along with a number of other occasional authors, have been blogging about genealogy since 2003. Topics run the gamut from genealogy news, press releases and new products, to research techniques and highlights from other blog posts around the Internet. If you only have time to read one blog, this is a good one to consider.

#### **—Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter**

News, reviews and a wealth of insightful commentary on various technologies as they relate to genealogy are the hallmarks of Dick Eastman's blog, read regularly by almost every genealogist we know. A variety of helpful articles and tutorials are available to "Plus Edition" subscribers, but the majority of the content is available for free.

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members a healthy productive  
stay-at-home time filled with  
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and inspirational learning.



## "Check This Out"

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

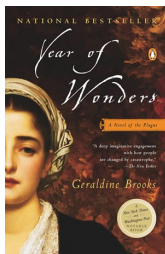
***One Bad Apple*** (An Orchard Mystery, Book  
One in a 12-book series) by Sheila Connolly\*  
(c 2008; 465 pages in large print; Berkley Publish-  
ing/Penguin Group, New York—fiction)

Meg Corey has come to the quaint New England town of Granford, Massachusetts, to sell her mother's old colonial home and apple orchard. Out of a job and living alone in the drafty Colonial house, Meg Corey is supposed to be fixing the house up to sell, but now she's got the flu and she's freezing and she feels very sorry for herself. Instead, she becomes embroiled in development plans that include her land, and her former flame from Boston. When he's found dead in the new septic tank on her property, the police immediately suspect Meg, whose only ally in town is the plumber. Together, they'll have to peel back the layers of secrecy that surround the deal in order to find the real murderer, and save the orchard.

Other books in the series involve Meg trying to make a business of the apple orchard; finding a 200-year-old needlework sampler in the house with names and dates of people who died one after another; trying to connect to her family tree the people who gifted the property to her mother; renovating a old house; and solving mysteries in a small community.

—Review by GoodReads and member Kay Barnes, who recommends this series as entertaining "who-done-its" mixed with some interesting genealogy

\*Author Sheila Connolly has taught art history, marketed municipal bonds for major cities, worked as a staff member on two statewide political campaigns, and served as a fundraiser for several non-profit organizations. She also managed her own consulting company providing genealogical research services; is a regent of the grandchild of Irish immigrants (in case you're worried that she's a snob). In addition to genealogy, Sheila loves restoring old houses, visiting cemeteries, and traveling. She is married, and has one daughter and two cats.



***Year of Wonders*** by Geraldine Brooks  
(c 2001; 308 pages; Viking Publishing; New York—  
historical fiction)

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead annus mirabilis, a "year of wonders." Inspired by the true story of Eyam, a village in the rugged hill country of England, *Year of Wonders* is a richly detailed evocation of a singular moment in history.

—Review by Goodreads; available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)