



*Cheyenne Genealogical &  
Historical Society*

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## Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Message From Your CGHS President . . .

I thought I would share with you the unexpected gifts of genealogy research. I am sure all of us reach times that we grow weary of looking at pieces of paper and wish you could make contact with a living relative who could provide a direct insight into your family history. My wish came true this past year. I am excited to share my research through Family Search and Ancestry and I received the greatest gift a large genealogy company could give to someone. I have personally spoken with six new cousins from my paternal grandfather's side of the family, a cousin from my paternal grandmother's side of the family, and two from my paternal great-grandmother's side of the family. My luck continued as three paternal cousins and one paternal grandmother's-side cousin participated in the first Smith/Barlow family reunion. I visit with them and learned many insights into my family members. For example, my father's uncle's opinion of Buffalo Bill was not positive. My cousin related that her father told her he thought Buffalo Bill was phony. She did not know if her father met Buffalo Bill or how he came to this conclusion. It is possible her father saw Buffalo Bill during one of his trips to Cheyenne. Just knowing that my great uncle saw Buffalo Bill in person is great. The other great part is learning that my relatives are in a close proximity to where I live. Receiving this gift gave me the much needed desire to return to my research. Now the biggest surprise was locating a possible extended relative who lives in Cheyenne. The relative is possibly a descendant of the original Reilly family. Now, I need to figure out how to contact the person without the person worrying some crazy person is out there. I hope you too have experienced the excitement of getting to know relatives that help with your family research. *Kris*



### Cheyenne Genealogy & Historical Society's Family History Month Program to Feature Thomas MacEntee on the 1950 U.S. Census

"The 1950 US Census: Are You Ready?" will be the topic of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society's free Webinar on Tues., October 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm in recognition of Family History Month. The Webinar will be presented by Thomas MacEntee, author, educator and professional genealogist, who specializes in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research. MacEntee is founder of High Definition Genealogy, hosts the popular Facebook page, "Genealogy Do-Over" and describes himself as a Baby Boomer sharing memories of growing up in the 1960s and 1970s in upstate New York and trying to work in some genealogy and family history at the same time. He said, "following the 72-Year Rule for records at the National Archives, the results of the 1950 U.S. Census will be made public on Friday, April 1, 2022, and it's never too early to prepare for this valuable data related to genealogy research." He will be the participants' guide to this Census adventure and will help them get up to speed on the history of the 1950 U.S. Census, why the 1950 Census form is radically different than previous forms, and how the data will be accessed. In addition, he will cover what researchers can do now to prepare for the release of the 1950 U.S. Census, as well as volunteer projects related to indexing and finding aids. CGHS members will automatically receive an email notification for the Zoom Webinar along with the handout. Non-members should send an e-mail request to [cghswyoming@gmail.com](mailto:cghswyoming@gmail.com) by Monday, Oct. 11, 2021 to reserve a spot.

### Upcoming Events:

7 Oct 2021

"A Glimpse into the Societies of the Mid-Atlantic States" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

12 Oct 2021

"Using the FamilySearch Wiki" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

12 Oct 2021

**CGHS Monthly Meeting & Program**  
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society  
6:15-8:00 p.m.,  
"The 1950 Census-Are You Ready?"  
Thomas MacEntee—Zoom Webinar (See more information at left)

19 Oct 2021

"What's New at Family Search" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

21 Oct 2021

"Organizing Your Genealogy" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

1 Nov 2021

"Using the FamilySearch Catalog" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

2 Nov 2021

"Overview of FamilySearch" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

3 Nov 2021

"Gen Team Gazetteer and Maps" 9 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

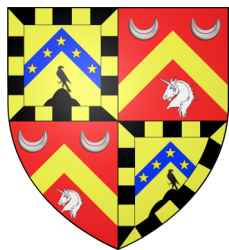
3 Nov 2021

"Finding Jewish Records at the National Archives" 9:30 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

## British & Irish Landowners Were Called "Landed Gentry," Historically Meaning Nobility

Information in this article is from Wikipedia:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landed\\_gentry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landed_gentry)

The **landed gentry**, or the *gentry*, is a largely historical British social class of landowners who could live entirely from rental income, or at least had a country estate. While distinct from, and socially below, the [British peerage](#), their economic base in land was often similar, although in fact some of the landed gentry were wealthier than some peers, and many gentry were close relatives of peers and it was not uncommon for gentry to marry into peerage. With or without noble title, owning rural land estates often brought with it the legal rights



of lord of the manor, and the less formal name or title of *squire*, and in Scotland *laird*. Generally lands passed by [primogeniture](#), and the inher-

itances of daughters and younger sons were in cash or stocks, and relatively small. Typically they farmed some of their land, as well as exploiting timber and owning mills and other sources of income, but leased most of the land to [tenant farmers](#). Many heads of families also had careers in politics or the military, and the younger sons of the gentry provided a high proportion of the clergy, military officers, and lawyers. The decline of the gentry largely stemmed from the [1870s agricultural depression](#); however, there are still many hereditary gentry in the UK to this day. The designation 'landed gentry' originally referred exclusively to members of the upper class who were landlords but also commoners in the British sense - that is, they did not hold peerages (noble ranks) - but usage became more fluid over time. By the late 19th century, the term was also applied to peers such as the Duke of Westminster who lived on landed estates. Successful burghers often used their accumulated wealth to buy country estates, with the aim of establishing them-

selves as landed gentry. (The book series [Burke's Landed Gentry](#) records the members of this class.)

The term *landed gentry*, although originally used to mean nobility, came to be used of the lesser nobility in England around 1540. Once identical, eventually nobility and landed gentry became complementary, in the sense that their definitions began to fill in parts of what the other lacked. The historical term *gentry* by itself, so [Peter Coss](#) (British historian) argues, is a construct that historians have applied loosely to rather different societies. Any particular model may not fit a specific society, yet a single definition nevertheless remains desirable. The phrase *landed gentry* referred in particular to the untitled members of the [landowning upper class](#). The most stable and respected form of wealth has historically been land, and great prestige and political qualifications were (and to a lesser extent still are) attached to land ownership.

### Definitions

The term [gentry](#), some of whom were landed, included four separate groups in England:

—[Baronets](#): a hereditary title, originally created in the 14th century and revived by King James in 1611, giving the holder the right to be addressed as *Sir*.

—[Knights](#): originally a military rank, this status was increasingly awarded to civilians as a reward for service to the Crown. Holders have the right to be addressed as *Sir*, as are baronets, but unlike baronet, the title of knight is not hereditary.

—[Esquires](#): originally men aspiring to knighthood, they were the principal attendants on a knight. After the Middle Ages the title of Esquire (Esq.) became an honor that could be conferred by the Crown, and by custom the holders of certain offices (such as barristers, lord mayor/mayor, justices of the peace, and higher officer ranks in the armed services) were deemed to be Esquires.

—[Gentlemen](#): possessors of a social status recognized as a separate title by the Statute of Additions of 1413. Generally men of high birth or rank, good social standing and wealth, and who did not need to work for a living, were considered gentlemen.

All of the first group, and very many of the last three, were "armigerous", having obtained the right to display a [coat of arms](#). In many Continental societies, this was exclusively the right of the nobility, and at least the upper clergy. In France this was originally true but many of the landed gentry, burghers and wealthy merchants were also allowed to register coats of arms and become "armigerous."

The primary meaning of *landed gentry* encompasses those members of the land-owning classes who are not members of the peerage. It was an informal designation: one belonged to the landed gentry if other members of that class accepted one as such. A newly rich man who wished his family to join the gentry (and they nearly all did so wish), was expected not only to buy a country house (mansion) and estate, but often also to sever financial ties with the business which had made him wealthy in order to cleanse his family of the "taint of trade," depending somewhat on what that business was. However, during the 18th and 19th centuries, as the new rich of the Industrial Revolution became more and more numerous and politically powerful, this expectation was gradually relaxed. From the late 16th century, the gentry emerged as the class most closely involved in politics, the military and law. It provided the bulk of Members of Parliament, with many gentry families maintaining political control in a certain locality over several generations. Owning land was a prerequisite for suffrage (the civil right to vote) in [county constituencies](#) until

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## Landed Gentry Listings in Burke's Volumes Evolved Over Time Depending on Land Owned

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the [Reform Act 1832](#); until then, Parliament was largely in the hands of the landowning class. Members of the landed gentry were [upper class](#) (not [middle class](#)); this was a highly prestigious status. Particular prestige was attached to those who inherited landed estates over a number of generations. These are often described as being from "old" families. Titles are often considered central to the upper class, but this is certainly not universally the case. The agricultural sector's middle class, on the other hand, comprise the larger [tenant farmers](#), who rent land from the landowners, and [yeoman](#) farmers, who were defined as "a person qualified by possessing free land of forty shillings annual [feudal] value, and who can serve on juries and vote for a [Knight of the Shire](#). They were sometimes described as small landowners, farmers of the middle classes.

[Anthony Richard Wagner](#), [Richmond Herald](#) wrote that "a Yeoman would not normally have less than 100 acres" (40 hectares) and in social status is one step down from the gentry, but above, say, a [husbandman](#). So while yeoman farmers owned enough land to support a comfortable lifestyle, they nevertheless farmed it themselves and were excluded from the "landed gentry" because they worked for a living, and were thus "in trade" as it was termed. Apart from a few "honorable" professions connected with the governing elite (the clergy of the established church, the officer corps of the British Armed Forces, the diplomatic and civil services, the bar or the judiciary), such occupation was considered demeaning by the upper classes, particularly by the 19th century, when the earlier mercantile endeavors of younger sons were increasingly discontinued. Younger sons, who could not expect to inherit the family estate, were instead urged into professions of state service. It became a pattern in many families

that while the eldest son would inherit the estate and enter politics, the second son would join the army, the third son go into law, and the fourth son join the church. Persons who are closely related to peers are also more correctly described as gentry than as nobility, since the latter term, in the modern British Isles, is synonymous with *peer*. However, this popular usage of *nobility* omits the distinction between titled and untitled nobility. The titled nobility in Britain are the peers of the realm, whereas the untitled nobility comprise those here described as gentry.

[David Cannadine](#), British author and historian, wrote that the gentry's lack of titles "did not matter, for it was obvious to contemporaries that the landed gentry were all for practical purposes the equivalent of continental nobles, with their hereditary estates, their leisured lifestyle, their social pre-eminence, and their armorial bearings". British armigerous families who hold no title of nobility are represented, together with those who hold titles through the [College of Arms](#), by the Commission and Association for Armigerous Families of Great Britain at European Commission of the Nobility—[CILANE](#).

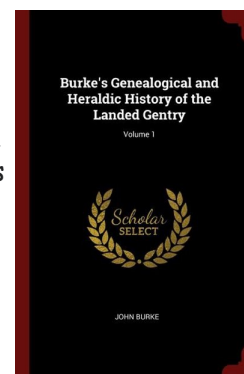
### Burke's References

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the names and families of those with titles specifically peers and baronets (less often including those with the non-hereditary title of knight) were often listed in books or manuals known as "Peerages," "Baronetages," or combinations of these categories, such as the "Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage and Companionage." As well as listing genealogical information, these books often also included details of the right of a given family to a coat of arms.

In the 1830s, one peerage publisher, [John Burke](#), expanded his market and his readership by publishing a similar volume for people without titles, which was called *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, enjoying territorial posses-*

*sions or high official rank*, popularly known as *Burke's Commoners*. *Burke's Commoners* was published in four volumes from 1833 to 1838. Subsequent editions were re-titled *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry*; or, *Commons of Great Britain and Ireland* or *Burke's Landed Gentry*. *Burke's Landed Gentry* continued to appear at regular intervals throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, driven, in the 19th century, principally by the energy and readable style of the founder's son and successor as editor, Sir John Bernard Burke (who generally favored the romantic and picturesque in genealogy over the mundane, or strictly correct).

A review of the 1952 edition in *Time Magazine* noted: "*Landed Gentry used to limit itself to owners of domains that could properly be called 'stately' (i.e. more than 500 acres or 200 hectares). Now it has lowered the property qualification to 200 acres (0.81 km<sup>2</sup>) for all British families whose pedigrees have been 'notable' for three generations. Even so, almost half of the 5,000 families listed in the new volume are in there because their forefathers were: they themselves have no land left. Their estates are mere street addresses, like that of the Molineux-Montgomeries, formerly of Garboldisham Old Hall, now of No. 14 Malton Avenue, Haworth. The last three-volume edition of *Burke's Landed Gentry* was published between 1965 and 1972. A new series, begun under new owners in 2001 on a regional plan, starting with *Burke's Landed Gentry: The Kingdom of Scotland*. However, these volumes no longer limit*



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## Burke's Books Listed Upper Classes by Surname in England, Ireland, Wales & Scotland

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themselves to people with any connection, ancestral or otherwise, with land, and they contain much less information, particularly on family history, than the 19th and 20th century editions. The popularity of *Burke's Landed Gentry* gave currency to the expression *Landed Gentry* as a description of the untitled upper classes in England (although the book also included families in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, where, however, social structures were rather different). Families were arranged in alphabetical order by surname, and each family article was headed with the surname and the name of their [landed property](#), e.g. "Capron of Southwick Hall". There was then a paragraph on the owner of the property, with his coat of arms illustrated, and all his children and remoter male-line descendants also listed, each with full names and details of birth, marriage, death, and any matters tending to enhance their social prestige, such as school and university education, military rank and regiment, Church of England cures held, and other honors and socially approved involvements. Cross references were included to other families in *Burke's Landed Gentry* or in *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*: thus encouraging brows-



ing through connections. Professional details were not usually mentioned unless they conferred some social status, such as those of civil service and colonial officials, judges and barristers. After the section dealing with the current owner of the property, there usually appeared a section titled *Lineage* which listed, not only ancestors of the owner, but (so far as known) every male-line descendant of those ancestors.

The [Great Depression of British Agriculture](#) at the end of the 19th century, together with the introduction in the 20th century of increasingly heavy levels of taxation on inherited wealth, put an end to agricul-

tural land as the primary source of wealth for the upper classes. Many estates were sold or broken up, and this trend was accelerated by the introduction of protection for agricultural tenancies, encouraging outright sales, from the mid-20th century. So devastating was this for the ranks formerly identified as being of the landed gentry that *Burke's Landed Gentry* began, in the 20th century, to include families historically in this category who had ceased to own their ancestral lands. The focus of those who remained in this class shifted from the lands or estates themselves, to the stately home or "[family seat](#)" which was in many cases retained without the surrounding lands. Many of these buildings were purchased for the nation and preserved as monuments to the lifestyles of their former owners (who sometimes remained in part of the house as lessees or tenants) by the [National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty](#). The National Trust, which had originally

concentrated on open landscapes rather than buildings, accelerated its country house acquisition program during and after the Second World War, partly because of the widespread [destruction of country houses in the 20th century](#) by owners who could no longer afford to maintain them. Those who retained their property usually had to supplement their incomes from sources other than the land, sometimes by opening their properties to the public. In the 21st century, the term "landed gentry" is still used, as the landowning class still exists, but it increasingly refers more to historic than to current landed wealth or property in a family. Moreover, the deference which was once automatically given to members of this class by most British people has almost completely dissipated as its wealth, political power and social influence have declined, and other social figures such as celebrities have grown to take their place in the public's interest.

## New York Historic Treasures That Survived 9/11

(This article is by Debra Adams Simmons, Executive Editor for Culture at National Geographic Magazine)

Nearly 3,000 people died on the morning of September 11, 2001, when two planes struck the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. As the towers crumbled, pieces of debris tore into an adjacent building, turning it into a smoking crater. In the basement of that building, called Six World Trade, sat more than a million historical artifacts excavated from sites across the city. These artifacts told the origin story of New York, and the history of the enslaved men and women and the immigrant working classes who built it into a global powerhouse, [Nina Storch](#) wrote for [National Geographic](#).

A decade earlier two huge archaeological discoveries were made during construction projects in lower Manhattan. Graves from an early African burial ground provided evidence of a large early African community and revealed a brutal picture of slavery, where young, expendable labor was needed to build up an industrial city.

Then, under a nearby parking lot, researchers unearthed the remains of Five Points, once one of the world's most densely populated neighborhoods and 19th-century Manhattan's most notorious slum. On 9/11, both those collections were stored under Six World Trade. Thankfully, the human remains from the burial ground were safe at Washington's Howard University, but the fate of the accompanying artifacts and thousands of educational materials they'd compiled into a research library, along with the excavations from Five Points, was unknown. African Burial Ground boxes were retrieved, allowing researchers to continue studying the lives of 419 enslaved men, women, and children who were buried there. But only 18 pieces of the Five Points collection survived that day.

"We have to remember that September 11 really did eclipse a record of that part of the city," said Rebecca Yamin, who led the Five Points project. "The record of the past being lost is always a tragedy. It's not the same as the tragedy of human lives, but it's a loss of understanding of ourselves and where we came from."



## Volunteers Restoring the Old Saltsburg, Pennsylvania Cemetery Uncover Community Treasures

*This article was originally published in the blog, FindAGrave Insider.*

In 2015, Chuck Colton learned about the [Old Saltsburg Cemetery](#) (in western Pennsylvania) for the first time. He remembers sitting on the steps of the historic Saltsburg Catholic church when a friend asked if he'd ever visited the old burial ground on Salt Street. Chuck didn't even know there was a cemetery there. He'd always had a soft spot for cemeteries, though, having grown up mowing the grass at cemeteries where his ancestors are buried. Chuck decided to go check it out.

The city of Saltsburg lies amidst the rolling green hills of Western Pennsylvania's Indiana County. The cemetery was laid out between 1817-1820. It occupied a piece of land behind the proposed Presbyterian church that was under construction at the northern edge of town. In 1832, just before the church was finished, it caught fire and burned to the ground. The local newspaper reported how the firestorm burned many wooden grave markers behind the church. A new church was built in its place, and the cemetery grew. It became the final resting place for hundreds of early Saltsburg residents and over time, became excessively crowded. In 1868, a new and larger burial ground opened nearby. Now known as [Edgewood Cemetery](#), town officials urged residents to move the remains of their loved ones and reinter them in the new cemetery. Some did, but many graves remained in the old burial ground. Over the decades, the Old Saltsburg Cemetery fell into decay and disrepair. The congregation built a new Presbyterian church just down the road and tore the old one down.

The Old Saltsburg Cemetery became neglected and overgrown. Trees, creeping myrtle, and poison ivy eventually choked out the headstones, and graves inside the cemetery seemingly disappeared. Headstones fell over or broke, and many became damaged or covered in lichen, making the inscriptions illegible. A road-widening project in 1954 had a negative impact on the old cemetery. State officials widened the narrow road that ran adjacent to the cemetery. During construction, workers reported unearthing graves and moving headstones as they graded the area with a bulldozer. At the time, the disturbance of the cemetery was not reported in the local newspaper. Again, the neglected cemetery fell into disrepair. Chuck recalled approaching the cemetery, located right behind the fire hall, for the first time. "I walked up to a white privacy fence, opened the gate, and peered inside. Most of the headstones were lying flat. There were thick woods with trees growing everywhere. Poison ivy was covering some of the graves. I suddenly had a feeling that I needed to do something about it, but I didn't know where to start."

Chuck decided to attend the Saltsburg borough meeting and ask borough officials about maintaining the cemetery. They showed little interest at first, but a reporter covering the meeting published a story about Chuck's request, and soon people were talking! Chuck received dozens of phone calls from residents who had stories or historical information to share. Others offered to help with the cleanup. Before Chuck knew it, he was organizing a cemetery restoration project. Chuck's sister Terri started an [Old Saltsburg Cemetery Face-book page](#) as a way to disseminate information and get volunteers and supplies. They scheduled their first community cleanup day and hoped for the best. The cleanup day arrived, and Chuck was thrilled to see dozens of volunteers show up. The



*The overgrown Old Saltsburg Cemetery. (Photo by Alan Saltsman)*

township sent two big trucks, tools, and city workers who volunteered their time on a Saturday. Chuck's professional career in metallography taught him the importance of photo documentation, and Chuck photographed every detail in the cemetery. He carefully recorded the location of each unearthened grave and headstone. As public interest grew, Chuck and Terri organized an "Adopt a Grave" program. People wanting to help restore the cemetery can adopt a headstone and help cover the costs of repairing, cleaning, and resetting the old headstones. Along the way, Chuck even discovered some people in his family tree buried in the Old Saltsburg Cemetery. Using a copy of the old church records, old newspapers, and other sources, Chuck is trying to document each person buried in the cemetery. He utilizes Find a Grave® to create memorials for each grave, spending hours searching through historical records to attach biographical information to the memorial. He even takes the time to make family connections and links parents and siblings. Chuck has talked to grateful descendants who have discovered ancestors buried there, thanks to his efforts. To Chuck, each grave represents a life lived - and a life that should be remembered. He treats the cemetery grounds as sacred and feels that it is his stewardship to do all he can to keep this history from becoming lost. Chuck has many favorite stories he's discovered during the cemetery revitalization, but two that come to mind are Aaron Wyatt and Maria Hawkins. The headstone of Civil War soldier [Aaron Wyatt](#) was perched precariously on a steep hill in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery.

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*Old Saltsburg Cemetery, Sept. 2021. (Photo by Jenny Ashcraft)*



## Philoprogenitive Ancestry...Present in Most of Our Family Trees—Count Yours!

*This article was written by one of our favorite genealogy presenters, Carol Stetser, from the Larimer County Genealogy Society.*

The other day I read a post on the American Ancestors blog Vita Brevis (by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society at <https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2021/08/philoprogenitive-ancestors/>) which dealt with philoprogenitive ancestry. The author, Christopher C. Child, mentioned that he didn't know what the term meant when he ran across it on a Facebook post by another genealogist. He had to look it up; I admit when I saw the word I had no idea what it meant either. I was interested to learn that it means "producing many offspring." The article then detailed the large families that the author's own ancestors produced. I, of course, was inspired to think of my own ancestors and how prolific some of them were. The family sizes in earlier days were nothing short of shocking to those of us used to thinking of three children as a large family. Since men can father children with multiple women, they have an advantage when it comes to producing a large family. For example, one of my second great-grandfathers, Parshall Peter Terry, was an early Latter-Day Saint who became a polygamist. With his three wives he produced nineteen children. He was a slacker, though, when compared with early Church leader Brigham Young, who fathered fifty-six children with sixteen wives. When it comes to female ancestors, who are constrained by biology, mine nevertheless seemed to routinely produce large families of ten or eleven or even twelve. Sadly, until fairly recently, many children died in childhood, so most of my ancestors of both sexes raised only some of their many children. However, one of my ancestral families stands out as the champion in child bearing and rearing. My third great grandmother, Sally Alton Hadlock, bore and raised to adulthood ten children. This, in spite of frequent moves West into ever more harsh living conditions and the early death of her husband. One of her daughters, Chastina Hadlock Allen, did even better. She bore fourteen children and raised all of them to adulthood, apparently without ever visiting a doctor once during their childhoods. The grand champion at child bearing and rearing, though, has to be Chastina's eldest daughter, Emeline Allen Bingham, who gave birth to nineteen children. She raised eighteen of them to adulthood!

Looking at your family tree to see who your most prolific ancestors were is



a fun way to spend an afternoon, when actual research just seems like too much effort. However, it's also a wonderful way to put an ancestor's life in perspective. It's easy to shrug and say "Well, it was easier for them. They didn't have the same expectations from life that we do now." Maybe so, but raising a dozen or more children had to

have been challenging. Just thinking about it makes me tired. I only raised three children, but I can remember the days when my children took every bit of energy I could muster. If I multiply that by five or six, I have some idea about life might have been like for some of our ancestors. Most

genealogists will run across philoprogenitive ancestry somewhere in their family tree. It's interesting to spend a little time looking at those huge families and trying to imagine their circumstances. So, what are you waiting for? How many children did your ancestors have?

### Stories and Graves Buried in an Old Pennsylvania Cemetery Included Civil War Soldiers, a Mother and Infant Daughter

*(continued from page 5)*

On April 15, 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to enlist in military service, twenty-seven-year-old Wyatt soon left his wife and two young sons to travel to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he enlisted as a private in Company C, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Pennsylvania Cavalry. Later he received a promotion to First Sergeant and saw action at some of the Civil War's bloodiest battles, including Antietam and Gettysburg. Wyatt received battle wounds at Gettysburg, but it was typhoid fever that killed him on November 8, 1863, at a hospital at Warrenton Junction, Virginia. In 2017, volunteers carefully restored Wyatt's headstone. His grave stands proudly alongside two other soldiers buried in the cemetery.

A second discovery that touched Chuck's heart is that of Maria J. Hawkins. Maria was born in Indiana County in 1834. She was one of nine children born to Adam Elrick and Jane Scott Marshall. When Maria was just 12, her father died, leaving her mother Jane with eight children and one on the way. At age 19, Maria married Shepherd M. Hawkins and became the mother of three young children. In 1858, 24-year-old Maria died and was buried in the Old Saltsburg Cemetery. Chuck found Maria's headstone lying flat and covered with lichen. He carefully cleaned it, revealing beautiful detail

not seen for more than 150 years. Chuck created a [Find a Grave® memorial](#) for Maria. It includes images of the headstone before and after restoration. While resetting Maria's headstone, Chuck discovered something touching and surprising. Buried beneath layers of dirt and vegetation was a tiny headstone for Maria's baby daughter, also named [Maria J. Hawkins](#). Mother and daughter were laid to rest next to one another, leaving Chuck to wonder if the baby's birth may have been related to the mother's death. Chuck knows that his cemetery restoration project will take a lifetime, and he is committed to the long haul. It has brought him joy and satisfaction. "It has bloomed into something I never expected," he said. Chuck hopes that his journey at the Old Saltsburg Cemetery might inspire others to look for opportunities to care for cemeteries in their communities. To learn more about the ongoing restoration of the Old Saltsburg Cemetery, check out their [Facebook page](#). See more amazing photos and the memorials for those buried at the Old Saltsburg Cemetery on [Find a Grave®](#).



Maria Hawkins headstone. (Photos by Alan Saltsman & Chuck Colton)

# Genealogy News You Can Use...

## FamilySearch Completes Digitization of Millions of Rolls of Microfilm; Makes Billions of Family History Records Freely Available to the Public

*This article was written by Laurie Bradshaw on 21 Sep 2021 from the FamilySearch Blog.*

Huge news: after 83 years of filming the world's historical genealogical records, FamilySearch has completed digitizing its 2.4 million rolls of microfilm. The best part? The archive, which contains information on more than 11.5 billion individuals, is now available free on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

More than 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are included in the digitized documents. All types of genealogically significant records are included—censuses, births, marriages, deaths, probate, church, immigration, and more. Now that the project is completed, it's much easier for users to find members of their family tree and make personal discoveries within these records. Want to check out these digitized microfilms for yourself? Explore FamilySearch's free collections of indexed records and images by going to [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org), and then search both "Records" and "Images." The [Images feature](#) will let you browse digitized images from the microfilm collection and more. You will need a free FamilySearch account to access digitized records.

### What Is/Was Microfilm?

A microfilm is a roll of film, like what would be used in an old camera—it just holds a lot more images per roll. However, instead of storing photos of treasured memories and loved ones, microfilms are designed to store documents that are shrunk down into miniature. These historic records are captured on the roll of film and reduced in size for easier storage. Before digital preservation, microfilm was an effective and space-conscious way to preserve historic documents and make them widely accessible. [Microfilm has been used since 1839](#), but its biggest breakthrough and popularization occurred in 1928.

FamilySearch, back when it was still called the [Genealogical Society of Utah](#), began microfilming in 1938. It was one of the first major organizations to embrace the use of microfilm imaging for long-term record preservation. FamilySearch's microfilm collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls. FamilySearch ended its microfilm distribution to family history centers in Sept 2017



when it began transition to a free, all-digital online access approach. FamilySearch's physical microfilm collection will continue to be preserved, but the information that the rolls contain can now be easily viewed and searched online.

### When It Began

In 1998, FamilySearch began digitizing its microfilm collection—a project that, at the time, was anticipated to take over 50 years to complete. However, advances in technology cut the estimated time to completion by nearly 30 years.

Microfilm scanning began with about five employees. As the process developed and evolved, it grew to as many as 30 employees using 26 scanners. This work continued even during the COVID-19 pandemic. FamilySearch is committed to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the world's genealogical records to help individuals and families worldwide discover and connect with their family histories. It continues to capture the images of original records at an ever-increasing rate—but digitally, bypassing the need to transfer the information from film. Although the digitization of FamilySearch's microfilm collection is completed, the digitization of new records worldwide continues. FamilySearch is also working to outsource the digitization of its large **microfiche** collection, which should be completed several years from now.

*NOTE: All of the microfilms are digitized and published on FamilySearch. However, they are not all "available" for viewing. While the majority are broadly accessible, some will have varying degrees of access limitations governed by contractual agreements or other restraints. Where access limitations exist, most will be available through the FamilySearch Family History Library, a local FamilySearch center,*

*or a third party website. There are also some digital collections that are not currently available. They apologize for any inconvenience in these circumstances.*

## UW Receives Second NEH Grant for Wyoming Digital Newspaper Project

University of Wyoming Libraries has received a second round of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support ongoing newspaper digitization work. The two-year \$200,000 grant will support the ongoing Wyoming Digital Newspaper Project, which began in August 2019 after the first NEH grant was awarded. The first phase of the project involved the digitization of 100,000 pages of select Wyoming newspapers—dating from 1867 to 1963—as part of the state's participation in the National Digital Newspaper Program. Newspapers that are available on the [Chronicling America website](#) include several years of the *Cheyenne Daily Leader* and succeeding title, *The Democratic Leader*. Upcoming titles from the first round of grant funding include *The Saratoga Sun*, the *Cody Enterprise* and the *Platte Valley Lyre*.

"This second round of funding will allow us to contribute an additional 100,000 pages to the Library of Congress' historical newspaper database, Chronicling America," says Bryan Ricupero, UW metadata librarian and principal investigator of the grant. "We plan to include content that expands both geographical and historical coverage of Wyoming."

A list of newspapers to be digitized during the new grant period is currently under review. The Wyoming State Archives and UW Libraries are the two primary repositories for collections of Wyoming print and microfilm newspapers. To date, UW Libraries has digitized and uploaded over 28,000 pages to the Chronicling America website. Master copies of all microfilmed titles are currently held at the Wyoming State Archives and are available for UW Libraries to duplicate and digitize. Much of this microfilm was created during the National Newspaper Project, to standards compatible with the NDNF.



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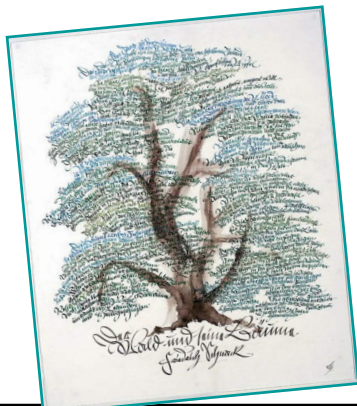
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The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society welcomes this new member who recently joined the society: LaRayne Randall CGHS continues to wish all its members healthy, productive genealogical research adventures and we encourage all members to pay their CGHS dues, participate in our programs and invite new members to join us!



## "Check This Out"

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



### **The Forgotten Seamstress**

By Liz Trenow (c. 2014; 329 pages; Sourcebooks  
Landmark Publishing; Naperville, Illinois—historical  
fiction)

Maria knows that, as a shy girl from London's East End with no family, she's lucky to have landed in the sewing room of the royal household. Before World War I casts its shadow, she catches the eye of the glamorous and intense Prince of Wales. But her life takes a far darker turn, and soon all she has left is a Caroline Meadows discovers a beautiful quilt in her mother's attic. When she can't figure out the meaning of the message embroidered into its lining, she embarks on a quest to reveal its mystery, a puzzle that only seems to grow more important to her own heart. As Caroline pieces together the secret history of the quilt, she comes closer and closer to the truth about Maria. **The Forgotten Seamstress** stitches together past and present in a page-turning and heartbreaking English historical story.



### **The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding**

By Jennifer Robson (c. 2019; 371 pages; William  
Morrow-Harper Collins Publishers; New York, NY—  
historical fiction)

**London, 1947:** Besieged by the harshest winter in living memory, burdened by onerous shortages and rationing, the people of postwar Britain are enduring lives of quiet desperation despite their nation's recent victory. Among them are Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, embroiderers at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell. Together they forge an unlikely friendship, but their nascent hopes for a brighter future are tested when they are chosen for a once-in-a-lifetime honor: taking part in the creation of Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown.

**Toronto, 2016:** More than half a century later, Heather Mackenzie seeks to unravel the mystery of a set of embroidered flowers, a legacy from her late grandmother. How did her beloved Nan, a woman who never spoke of her old life in Britain, come to possess the priceless embroideries that so closely resemble the motifs on the stunning gown worn by Queen Elizabeth II at her wedding almost seventy years before? And what was her Nan's connection to the celebrated textile artist and Holocaust survivor Miriam Dassin?

With **The Gown**, Jennifer Robson takes readers inside the workrooms where one of the most famous wedding gowns in history was created. Balancing behind-the-scenes details with a sweeping portrait of a society left reeling by the calamitous costs of victory, she introduces readers to three unforgettable heroines, their points of view alternating and intersecting throughout its pages, whose lives are woven together by the pain of survival, the bonds of friendship, and the redemptive power of love. It is also about a gift, a piece of beautiful embroidery and her search to find the person who stitched it.

In both cases you get the story of the individuals and their lives at the times, along with the research efforts done to identify the seamstresses. I enjoyed both books and thought they had enough searching in them that they might interest other genealogists.

—Amazon Reviews

—Kay Barnes