



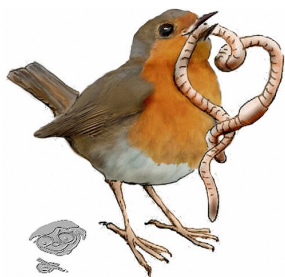
*Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society*

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

A note from the President...



Even though I have no control over the weather, I wish you a happy Spring and wish—like you—that it was actually happening. Two robins have visited our yard which is a good sign, but since our water feature hasn't been started up yet, they probably will stay away until they can get a good bath!

Some great news for our society is that Cathy Banks and Valerie O'Neil have stepped up to be President and Vice President respectively. Thanks so much to those ladies. The future of our wonderful society has been weighing heavily on my mind and I am relieved and excited about them taking the reins. I hope to see everyone in person at our Spring gathering—dinner and silent auction—to be held at The Office restaurant on May 9th. More information will be coming your way soon. In the meantime, keep hoping for our real Spring and sunny days to arrive! – *Judy Engelhart*

United Kingdom to Celebrate Coronation of King Charles III

The United Kingdom and Commonwealth will celebrate the [coronation of a new monarch, King Charles III](#) at a three-day extravaganza, May 6-8, which will undoubtedly be one of the most defining events of not only 2023 but the decade, as millions of people around the world tune in to watch the pageantry unfold. This is only the third time a new monarch has been crowned in the last century, with the previous one occurring seventy years ago. To help prepare for what is sure to be a memorable weekend, there are four key things to know ahead of the festivities. The coronation of the new King will take place over three days, beginning on the morning of Saturday, 6th May, with the coronation of Charles III. On Sunday 7th, Windsor Castle will play host to a large celebration with a host of as-yet-unannounced global musical icons and contemporary stars set to perform. Festivities will continue on Monday, 8th May, which has been declared a public holiday in the UK. Throughout the day, the Royal Family is encouraging people to get out and volunteer in the local community as part of "[The Big Help Out](#)." The event will begin with a procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, which will be known as "The King's Procession." There will then be a short ceremony in the Abbey, which will be much more concise than that of Queen Elizabeth II, to reflect the changing role of the monarch. Expected to take around an hour, the exact details of the service are yet to be announced, but it is reported that Charles has requested a streamlined ceremony in response to the many struggles being felt by modern Brits living through the cost-of-living crisis. However, it will still stay true to the long-held traditions of the monarchy. A larger ceremonial parade, known as "The Coronation Procession," will then see the new King, alongside other members of the Royal Family, return to Buckingham Palace before an appearance on the iconic balcony to greet the thousands of fans lining the Mall.



Upcoming Events:

7 Apr 2023

"Tick Marks & Number Counts: Understanding & Using Slave Schedules"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

11 Apr 2023

"Using the FamilySearch Wiki"

CGHS Monthly Meeting
LCL Special Collections
6:15-8:30 p.m.

11 Apr 2023

"Searching on Family Search"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m.

11 Apr 2023

"DeepStory—Your Visual Storytelling Tool"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

13 Apr 2023

"The Secret to Finding Your Ancestors' Stories"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 6:00 p.m. MDT

18 Apr 2023

"Using the FamilySearch Catalog"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m.

25 Apr 2023

[DNA Day At the Family Search Library](#)

9 a.m.—"DNA Basics:

An Introduction to DNA and Genealogy"

10:15 a.m.—"Why Oh Why Do Your Y-DNA?"

11:30 a.m.—"Getting Started with DNA-Clustering"

1:00 p.m.—"Getting Started with DNA-Determining Relationships"

2:00 p.m.—"Double Trouble: Using DNA to Solve Two Generations of Adoptions"

31 May-3 June 2023

"Deep Roots of a Nation"
National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Richmond, Virginia
Registration open at:
[NGS website](#)

The Black Death's Legacy, Neanderthal Family Ties & Other Secrets Revealed by DNA

This article was written by Katie Hunt for CNN's *WonderTheory* science newsletter on 20 Dec 2022.

The fast-expanding field of ancient DNA, formally known as *paleogenetics*, came of age in 2022, earning its pioneering scientist [Svante Pääbo a Nobel prize for medicine and physiology](#). Pääbo, the director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, developed methods to recover, sequence and analyze ancient DNA from fossils — a feat that took decades. Researchers are using the techniques today to answer fundamental questions about human history and the planet's deep past. Many of the discoveries upend assumptions about prehistoric times. When Pääbo's lab in Leipzig [sequenced the first Neanderthal genome in 2010](#), many were startled to learn that our own species *Homo sapiens* encountered and had babies with Neanderthals. Paleogenetics has continued to tease out astonishing secrets from DNA hidden in bones, teeth—even dirt. Here are seven things we learned in this fascinating and emerging field in 2022.

The Black Death's Origins

The Black Death, the world's most devastating plague outbreak, killed half of medieval Europe's population in the space of seven years in the 14th century, shifting the course of human history. But [research published in October 2022](#) suggested it was more than luck that determined who lived and who died. Analysis of centuries-old DNA from both victims and survivors of the Black Death identified key genetic dif-

ferences that helped people survive the plague, according to a study published in the journal *Nature*.

That genetic legacy continues to shape the human immune system today, with genes that once conferred protection against the plague now linked to a greater vulnerability to autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's and rheumatoid arthritis. *Science* magazine named the discovery one of its top breakthroughs of 2022.

Ancient DNA also shed light on the origins of the plague outbreak that caused the Black Death—[work detailed in a study published in June 2022](#). Genetic material extracted from skeletons buried in a graveyard in Kyrgyzstan, where tombstones referred to a mysterious pestilence, revealed the DNA of the plague bacterium, which scientists call *Yersinia pestis*, in three people who died in 1338, several years before the disease entered Europe in 1347.

Neanderthal Family Portrait

Scientists uncovered [a genetic snapshot of the oldest known family group](#), using ancient DNA from Neanderthals who lived in Chagyrskaya Cave in southern Siberia in Russia. The riverside hunting camp about 54,000 years ago was home to a tight community of around 20 Neanderthals, including a father and his teenage daughter, a young male who might have been a nephew or a cousin, and an adult female who was a second-degree relative—perhaps an aunt or a grandmother. The researchers also detected an unexpected pattern of female migration among the different threads of genetic ancestry. The diversity of the Y chromosome DNA, which is inherited through the male line, was a lot lower than that of the mitochondrial DNA, which is passed from mothers. The study calculated that, in this group, two male individuals could expect to share an ancestor around 450 years be-

fore they lived. By contrast, the equivalent estimate for female individuals was around 4,350 years. The researchers said the best explanation for this was that more than 60% of the female Neanderthals in the small Chagyrskaya group had migrated from another community. This social structure is common among present-day hunter-gatherer societies and is known as *patrilocality*.

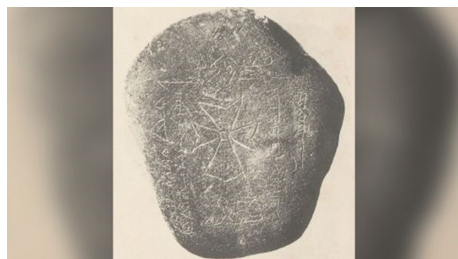
Lush Arctic

Scientists in Denmark detected the world's oldest known DNA sequences in sediment from the ice age. The core of earth, taken from northern Greenland, revealed the polar region was once abundant with plant and animal life two million years ago. Mastodons, reindeer, geese, lemmings and hares lived in an ecosystem that was a mix of temperate and Arctic flora and fauna. The genetic material in the dirt, shed by all of the living organisms in the environment so long ago, tells a more complete story of prehistoric life than the fossil record. This [unparalleled ancient ecosystem](#) has no modern equivalent, but it could provide a genetic road map for how some species might adapt to the climate crisis.

Medieval Well Mystery

Construction workers breaking ground in 2004 on a shopping mall in Norwich, England, discovered 17 bodies at the bottom of an 800-year-old well. To understand more about [how the six adults and 11 children whose remains were found there died](#), scientists were recently able to extract detailed genetic material preserved in the bones thanks to advances in ancient DNA sequencing. The genomes of six of the individuals showed that four of them were related — including three sisters, the youngest of whom was 5 to 10 years old. Further analysis of

(continued on page 3)



This is an inscription on a tombstone from the Chu Valley region in Kyrgyzstan.

The "Ultimate Genealogical Search" Hunts for Our Earliest Ancestors

This article is from [Science News for Students](#), from December 2021, written by Erin Wayman.

With the availability of home DNA-test kits, people have been using samples of saliva and cells to search for, among other things, unknown relatives. But that approach will only help you narrow your search back maybe a few generations. Over the past 150 years, many scientists have attempted to hunt down our earliest ancestors, folk who trace to the first emergence of humankind. Their search hasn't been easy. Along the way, there have been varied clues—and plenty of stumbles. But many have forged on in a quest that continues to this day. The search for hominin fossils in Africa began in the 1920s. Since then, most paleoanthropologists have set their sights on eastern and southern Africa. This has turned up interesting finds almost everywhere they have looked. Still, a lot of the continent is left to study.

Charles Darwin was among the earlier scientists to look for the ultimate roots of our family tree. Back in 1871, he hypothesized that humankind's earliest ancestors must have lived in Africa. His reasoning: Among all animals, the African apes—gorillas and chimpanzees—were most similar to humans. But at the time, there was

no fossil evidence to support Darwin's claim. The few human fossils known had all been found in Europe.

Over the next 50 years, more would trickle in from there and Asia. So had Darwin picked the wrong continent? No. In 1924, miners in a South African limestone quarry made a surprising find. It was the fossilized skull of a toddler. Based on its features, Raymond Dart concluded this fossil was a fabled "missing link" between humans and apes. Dart was an anatomist at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. This fossil was the most apelike yet for a hominid—that is, a member of the extended human family. Known as *Hominidae*, this family includes our species and all of our close, extinct relatives. That fossil wasn't enough to confirm Africa as our homeland. But since that first discovery, anthropologists have amassed many thousands more fossils that have pointed to Africa as our place of origin. More recently, genetic studies have reinforced this story. African apes are indeed our closest living relatives, with chimpanzees most closely related to us. In fact, scientists now include great apes in the [hominid](#) family. They use a more restrictive term—hominin—to refer to us and our most closely related extinct cousins.

Back to Africa

The study of human evolution is a field known for bitter feuds and rivalries. But one concept unifies these scientists: the idea that our roots go back to Africa. "I think everybody agrees and understands that Africa was very pivotal in the evolution of our species," says Charles Musiba, a paleoanthropologist who works at the University of Colorado Denver. Paleoanthropologists have sketched a rough timeline of our evolution. Sometime between 9 million and 6 million years ago, the first hominins emerged. Walking upright



Some of our ancestors may have been roaming the planet up to 7 million years ago. Paleoanthropologists have been patiently excavating fossils of those ancient cousins and are attempting to piece together where on the human family tree we all reside.

on two legs distinguished these ancestors from other apes. Hominins also had smaller canine teeth. That may signal they were less aggressive and more social.

Between about 3.5 million and 3 million years ago, some of our ancestors ventured beyond wooded areas. Africa was growing drier. Grasslands were spreading across the continent. Hominins were crafting stone tools. Our genus, *Homo*, arrived by two million years ago, maybe earlier. These members of our family had larger brains than their ancestors. By at least 2 million years ago, members of our genus started moving into Eurasia. By about 300,000 years ago, our species—*Homo sapiens*—had arrived. But human evolution was not a gradual, linear process. It did not consist of a nearly unbroken chain, one hominin smoothly evolving into the next through time. Fossil discoveries in the 1960s and '70s revealed a bushier family tree. These included many dead-end branches. By some counts, there may have been more than 20 hominin species. Experts disagree on how to classify them all. Clearly, hominins were diverse. Indeed, some species overlapped in both time and place. With so much ground to explore, it's too early to write a complete history of human evolution, Wood says. Our origin story is still a work in progress. To read the rest of the article, go to: [The Ultimate Genealogical Search](#).

...DNA Secrets Revealed

(continued from page 2)

the genetic data suggested that all six were "almost certainly" Ashkenazi Jews. Judaism is primarily a shared religious and cultural identity, but as a result of a long-standing practice of marrying within the community, Ashkenazi Jewish groups often carry a distinctive genetic ancestry that includes markers for some rare genetic disorders. The researchers believe they all died during anti-Semitic violence that wracked the city—most likely a February 1190 riot related to the Third Crusade, one of a series of religious wars supported by the Catholic church.

Family Search is Using Artificial Intelligence to Discover the Past

(This article was written by Rebecca Olds in the [Deseret News](#). Utah, March 2023)

FamilySearch has made more than 2.6 billion historical resources available to the public, and according to John Alexander, senior product manager, there's a lot more on the way. It's just a matter of getting the documents transcribed. More than 5 billion more documents — collected and converted to digital images — need to be transcribed to make them searchable and usable in **FamilySearch's** database. And 1 to 2 million more are added every single day. With the development of new artificial intelligence technology, there's more hope of getting billions of records to families looking for information about their relatives in as little as five years. And it's already being tested and used.

"In just a couple of hours, the computer can index more than you or I could do in a whole lifetime if we did nothing besides indexing for the rest of our lives," he said. "So in terms of efficiency, it's very fast." Currently, it's being taught — yes, "taught" like a child — English, Spanish and Portuguese, with plans for Italian in 2023. It takes time to get a sophisticated system like transcribing AI up and running because it has to be taught and trained, he said. "When we show a computer the image, all it sees is ones and zeros — pixels," he explained. "None of that means anything to the computer. And so we have to train it similar to the way we train or teach a child to read, we have to teach it each individual letter and character, we have to teach it the way that pages are laid out & how each line is distinct from the other," he continued. "All of that takes time and training." Not to mention that it's starting to read handwriting from the 1400s, which can be difficult for human volunteers. Once it's taught a language, the other languages in the family become much easier to teach — it's a sort of exponential process. And quicker than they could have imagined, the AI could read documents in English, Spanish and Portu-

guese, and index what would take human indexers half a century in just a few months. Unless there's a rapid uptake in indexing these documents, these records will never be accessible to the public, which is **FamilySearch's** goal.

"In order for those images to be useful and accessible for people to find their families on them, they need to be indexed," he said. "Only about 20% of the documents that **FamilySearch** has been able to collect and copy information from is readily available on the site, and they're quickly losing footing as documents are copied and stored faster than the information can fly off the page. Indexing, like Alexander referenced, is a human-powered process that is run by volunteers who can go through and look at the image, and fill out a digital form with the information from the historical document. This allows the information to be put in the online database and searchable to any user. But it's limited because humans can only work so fast.

"Even though we've tried to grow our **FamilySearch** indexing and get more people involved, digitization has gotten so much faster, we can't keep up," Alexander said. "We can't index all of the images coming in the door." Whenever AI gets involved, some skepticism enters the equation. A common question about the whole AI transcribing process is, "How accurate is it?"

"The computer does make mistakes," he said. "It might read the name of a street and think that's the name of the baby—things like that." But **FamilySearch** is very committed to quality records and plans to maintain that high quality for users on the site. Records that don't meet a certain quality threshold are not published on the site. "If we didn't worry about quality, we could go much, much faster with the computer," he said. "But we care very much about the quality." **FamilySearch** has processed far more documents than it has released to the public because of quality thresholds that are in place, giving the document a grade based on its accuracy. And it's all thanks to quality-control volunteers.

How Does the British Monarch Succession Process Work?

(Information for this article was provided by **FamilySearch**)

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the right to the British throne immediately went to her son, Prince Charles, as part of the [succession process](#).

This is a centuries-old practice that began in the 17th century following an act of Parliament after the then King, James II, fled England in 1688. The ruling stated that only the legitimate Protestant descendants of [Sophia of Hanover](#) were eligible to the crown. For centuries, the ruling meant the firstborn male would become King following the death or abdication of the current monarch, with the crown only passing to the daughter if there were no eligible sons. This ruling was amended in 2013 with the Succession to the Crown Act, which removed the male primogeniture system and replaced it with the firstborn child. It also ended the provision that stated those who married a Roman Catholic were disqualified from the [line of succession](#).

When King Charles III took to the throne following the death of his mother, his son, Prince William, became the immediate heir. This means that he will take over ruling the monarchy upon the death of Charles. William's son, Prince George of Wales, is second in line to the throne, ahead of his younger sister Princess Charlotte of Wales and younger brother Prince Louis of Wales.



St. Edward's crown, traditionally used for the coronation of new British monarchs.

Learn more about the [Royal Family Tree](#) at [FamilySearch](#).

Genealogy News You Can Use...

New England Quaker Records Back to Mid-17th Century to be Digitized By University of Massachusetts Libraries

The following information is from *Dick Eastman's Newsletter* of 26 Jan 2023.

The *New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records*—rich and voluminous materials of Quakers going back to their mid-17th-century beginnings—will be the focus of a new digitization project by the [Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center \(SCUA\)](#), in the UMass Amherst Libraries.

When the project is completed, the vital records and meeting minutes heavily consulted by historians and genealogists will be available in SCUA's digital repository, [Credo](#), on the web, and through the collaborative Massachusetts digital portal, Digital Commonwealth, of which SCUA is a member. Thanks to the efforts of Rob Cox, head of SCUA at the time, the records arrived at UMass Amherst in 2016, after having been on deposit at the Rhode Island Historical Society. Almost immediately, SCUA staff began to receive requests for research help in the collection, many from patrons unable to visit in person. Demand for access to the records, along with the age and fragility of many of the materials, have made digitization imperative.

"The UMass Libraries are proud to be engaged in the preservation of these rare materials, as they are in high demand by researchers all over the world," said Nandita Mani, Ph.D., dean of University Libraries. "Our work in digitizing these records not only preserves them for the future, but in fact reduces barriers to access and makes them available to all."

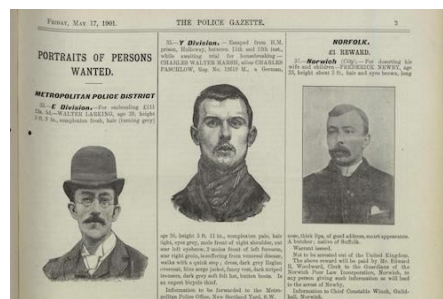
Beginning in late January 2023, the first group of 283 bound volumes will be sent off-site to be scanned and will temporarily be unavailable. Digitization will be performed by the Internet Ar-

chive scan center, part of the Boston Public Library's Library for the Commonwealth program that provides digitization services to Digital Commonwealth members. SCUA staff anticipate the process of digitizing each group of bound volumes will take four to six weeks and that all 787 of the record books will be available online by end of summer 2023. SCUA maintains an active partnership with the New England Quakers, jointly stewarding the historical

records of the organization. The *New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records* includes records of most of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, in addition to the Yearly Meeting, as well as documentation of a range of committees and programs created and administered by the Quakers. The vital records have historically been kept by the Monthly Meetings and are the most frequently consulted.

TheGenealogist Announces Release of Transcribed Records Covering 'Wanted Persons' from UK Court & Criminal Files

Records covering wanted persons, absentees and deserters are included in the latest release of more than 56,000 individuals and 20,802 further aliases from *The Police Gazette* by [TheGenealogist](#) covering the years 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931. Available to Diamond subscribers in their **UK Court and Criminal Records Collection**, these records are searchable by name, alias, offence among other keywords. The records have been transcribed by volunteers from **UKIndexer** to provide an effective resource for discovering descriptions of wayward ancestors. These newly released **UK Police Gazette** records (sometimes known to researchers by its historic name of [Hue and Cry](#)) are a part of the MEPO 6 criminal records on TheGenealogist that also include Habitual Criminals Registers and Miscellaneous Papers. The images of the pages from the *Police Gazette* publication on *TheGenealogist* were originally published by the Metropolitan Police and circulated to Police forces in the British Isles. They include a number of portraits of the offenders and always give descriptive written details of the individuals. Expect to see the names of persons charged who were known but not in custody, and also the description of those who



were not known, their appearance, dress, and every other mark of identity that could help identify the person. Also included in the [Police Gazette](#) were the names of accomplices and accessories, with every other particular that may lead to the apprehension of the individuals. Sections of the *Police Gazette* were devoted to "Deserters and Absentees" from the military and those "Discharged for Misconduct." These provide interesting details about ancestors missing from the Army and Navy.

By Any Other Name ...

Sorry all you Joneses, but you now rank No.5 in the list of most-popular surnames in America, and the Garcias are gaining fast.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Smith | 6. Garcia |
| 2. Johnson | 7. Miller |
| 3. Williams | 8. Davis |
| 4. Brown | 9. Rodriguez |
| 5. Jones | 10. Martinez |

—From AARP The Magazine.

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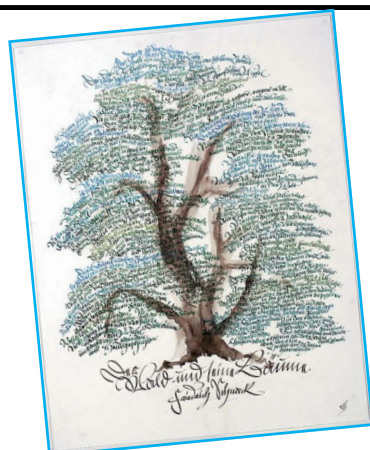
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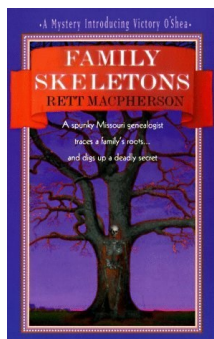
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The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society welcomes these
new members: **Karla Malone** and
Mark Bowman. WELCOME!
We continue to wish our members
healthy, productive genealogical re-
search! We encourage all members
to pay their CGHS dues, participate
in our programs, get assistance at
the library, and invite friends & new
members to join us!



"Check This Out"

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

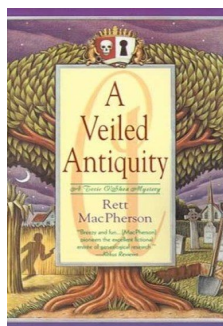


Family Skeletons (Torie O'Shea Mystery #1)

By Rett MacPherson (c. 1998, 207 pages; St.

As resident genealogist, historian, tour guide, and occasional amateur snoop, Victory "Torie" O'Shea can be found anywhere in the historic German town of New Kassel, Missouri—mixing fudge, giving tours, tracing family trees, and even investigating murder.

When shop owner Norah Zumwalt asks Torie for help in piecing together her family lineage to find her missing father, Torie cheerfully agrees. But before Torie delivers her results, Norah is brutally murdered. Now Torie must use her formidable skills at prying into the past—and the human heart—to solve a case of passionate secrets and betrayal. But as the Mississippi floods, she may be in deep trouble when evidence of another killing surfaces and Torie comes face-to-face with a family skeleton that will chill her to the bone.



A Veiled Antiquity (Torie O'Shea Mystery #2)

By Rett MacPherson (c. 1998, 224 pages; Minotaur Books, New York, NY—fiction, mystery)

Torie O'Shea—genealogist and amateur sleuth—is having a killer of a day. The town gossip spreads the word that her sweet wheelchair-bound mother is having an affair—with the sheriff! Then quiet Marie Dijon is found dead at the foot of her basement stairs. Did she fall? Was she pushed? All Torie knows is that Marie had a family tree with royal roots completely foreign to a folksy Middle America town like New Kassel, Missouri. As foreign as, say...murder. But nosiness in New Kassel is as native as the upcoming Oktoberfest. To Torie, the open door to Marie's house is more tempting than chocolate. Finding a hidden key and old documents in French make further investigating irresistible. But while juggling her growing suspicions, a hectic job at the historical society, two kids, and a sexy husband, Torie overlooks the obvious. Curiosity killed the cat. Someone killed Marie Dijon. And now Torie might know too much to live...

—Book Reviews by GoodReads

(Rett MacPherson was born in St. Louis, Missouri. She is the author of the popular Torie O'Shea mysteries and helped to pioneer the sub-genre of genealogical mysteries. She is also a bead and fabric artist and loves wineries, cemeteries, genealogy, history and of course, books. She said about **Family Skeletons**, "Most people get excited over new cars; I get excited over death certificates. It's no wonder my husband worries about my state of mind.")