



*Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society*

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Messages From Your CGHS Officers. . .

From Judy Engelhart, Past-President—

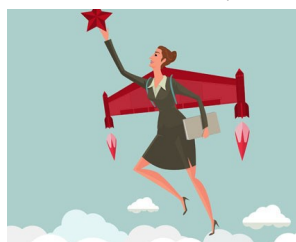
After such a successful, fun Historic Cemetery Walk, it has truly dawned upon me that I am no longer President of our wonderful society. Cathy will do a great job, and Val is working hard on fun and interesting programs, so we are set for 2023-2024. I wish to thank everyone these past couple of years who have worked hard to keep us moving forward and staying relevant to our members. While leadership is important and necessary it is the society as a whole that makes things happen. Coming to business meetings and programs, bringing snacks and drinks, inviting friends, paying dues, offering ideas, and so much more, are greatly appreciated. I leave the position with a happy heart and am looking forward to the future. Most sincerely, Judy

From Cathy Banks, Incoming President—

Greetings to all. I would like to take this opportunity to first thank all of you for selecting me as the next President of CGHS. I am indeed honored. Second, I would like to let you know a little about your new officer. I am a Wyoming native born at Buffalo, raised on my paternal grandparents homestead. My education started in a rural grade school, the same one where my Dad had his first eight grades and my Mom taught for three years prior to their marriage. Very early in life I started to have interest in family history. While in high school I wrote two papers as assignments in 1963 & 1964. More things came along that also piqued my interest in genealogy research. I was involved in presenting my research to others at Community Ed classes as well as other places with interest in what I love. I made trips to the Salt Lake City History Library numerous times, made it to RootsTech and have been a volunteer at Family Search Centers, and of course trekked through various cemeteries looking for my ancestors. It is wonderful now to have so much available on-line. I look forward to working with all of you fellow researchers and seeing you at our programs. If you have ideas that could benefit our organization, please talk to me in person or phone or by e-mail at julrfd1@yahoo.com. Cathy

From Valerie O'Neill, Incoming Vice President—

I grew up in Denver and went to the University of Colorado and Kansas State University. While living in Kentucky I worked as a microbiologist. I also was a soil research technician for USDA in Ft. Collins, and retired as a microbiologist from the Public Health Laboratory in Cheyenne. The very different backgrounds of my parents influenced my interest in history and genealogy. As a child we visited relatives in Chicago where my father's recent immigrant family from Germany and Ireland had settled. During the summers, we stayed on my grandmother's farm in Jackson County, Florida, where my mother's family had lived for generations. Meeting relatives from such different places with very different backgrounds made me curious about the how and why of my ancestors' journey and how I fit into the history of my family. I am working on Society programs that will help us all continue the search for our ancestors. Valerie



Upcoming Events:

20 Sept 2023

"Denmark Census Records"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)

10:00 a.m.

20 Sept 2023

"Genealogy Escape Room:

The Case of the Only Name Change at Ellis Island" by Thomas

MacEntee

Free [Legacy Family Tree](#)

[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

21 Sept 2023

"Counting the Canucks:

Combing Through

Canadian Censuses"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)

10:00 a.m. MDT

22 Sept 2023

"Hidden Treasure in New England Town Records"

Free [Legacy Family Tree](#)

[Webinar](#) 9:30 a.m. MDT

23 Sept 2023

"Introduction to Genetic

Genealogy" 9:30 a.m.-12:30

p.m., [Larimer County Genealogy Society](#), Fort Collins

5 Oct 2023

"Order in the Court: Introducing U.S. Court Records"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)

10:00 a.m. MDT

10 Oct 2023

CGHS monthly Meeting &

Program: "Plan Your

Research-Research Your

Plan" 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Laramie County Library

19 Oct 2023

"Start Organized, Stay

Organized: Laying the

Groundwork for a

Successful U.S. Research

Project"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)

10:00 a.m. MDT

31 Oct 2023

"Family Search Family

Tree: Merging Duplicates"

[FamilySearch Webinar](#)

10:00 a.m. MDT

Age-Estimation & Child-Ordering Increases Both Genealogical Accuracy and Further Research

This information was taken from The New York Researcher, Spring 2010 by Patricia Law Hatcher; continued from last issue of the Cheyenne Genealogy Journal.

...The process of determining the order of birth of children in a family, although time-consuming, frequently provides some of the best new data on that family...the value of this process in pointing out conflicts and contradictions and in directing further research is worth the effort. When exact dates are lacking, going through age-estimation and the child-ordering process has payoffs.

Understanding Norms

There are several key life events on which we rely to establish ages: earliest appearance in records, appearance in positions of authority, first evidence of land ownership, and first marriage. For women, we look at span of child-bearing, especially the birth of the last child. For this methodology to be useful, it is necessary to focus equally on all members of a family, sometimes even following the children in order to determine likely ages and hence birth years to understand potential placement within a family group.

Cautious researchers will realize that there is a meaningful difference between the age at which someone *could* do something and the age at which they typically *did* that something. A case in point is being a witness. The age of majority was twenty-one. Minority was divided into three sections of seven years each. Between 14 and 20, a child could be responsible for his or her own actions. Therefore, a 14-year-old could legally witness a document. However, since everyone knew that person was a minor, they were not likely to ask him to be a witness if it could be avoided. A minor would have been a witness only if there were no adult available, perhaps when death was unexpectedly imminent.

Men did not usually achieve positions of importance in a community until their thirties (late twenties at earliest). Men from prominent families might well be given such posi-

tions earlier than lowly farmers. Not all town offices or military roles indicate importance; some were routinely given to men in their twenties. The researcher will need to understand the duties involved in the position in question.

Family researchers tend to believe that first marriages occurred much earlier than was the norm. Although in the early colonial period marriages in England were permitted at a very young age (fourteen for girls, sixteen for boys), for practical reasons they usually did not occur until the husband was in a position to support a family. Most men simply were not established enough to support a wife and family until they

closely spaced. This was the norm, but exceptions did, of course, occur (in statistics these are called *outliers*). Early pregnancy was a common reason.

Men who came from well-to-do families did not necessarily have the impediment of needing to earn the capital to establish a home or farm. On the other hand, if they sought higher education, they often married much later than the norm. Older men, such as widowers, often seemed to marry much younger women. An exception is that children, particularly daughters, living in a household with a stepparent, were apt to marry at an age much younger than typical, especially if the situation was unpleasant or if both biological parents had died.

First marriage for men near the age of 25 and women at 20 to 21 holds up well, statistically, over a broad range of time and place. It is inappropriate for genealogists to grasp an unlikely birth date or marriage age because it is convenient or gives a preferred ancestry.

It is vitally important that for estimated dates we stick to the estimating protocol

throughout an article or book (or other source). We do not adjust dates here and there to make family groups look neater. For example, if three sisters all married in 1745, each of their entries in a genealogy summary should say *born "say 1725 (estimating marriage at 20)."* We do not have a crystal ball to tell us their birth order.

Responsible practices in expressing dates and ages increases both genealogical accuracy and the potential for future research.

Note: Patricia Law Hatcher was editor of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. She is the author of hundreds of books and published articles on genealogical subjects.



Determining birth order frequently provides some of the best new data on a family—pointing out conflicts and contradictions & directing further research.

were in their mid-twenties.

In England an apprentice could not marry. Apprenticeships typically ran until age 21 but in cities that age was 25. A man generally married a woman near his own age whom he had known much of his life. It was not uncommon for the wife to be a year or two older. The understanding of the appropriate ages for marriage was carried to early America, but with a bit more flexibility.

A couple's first child was typically born a year after the marriage, with subsequent children arriving every two years. An exception, but one rarely seen in America, was among very well-to-do families in which a wet nurse was employed, in which case the children might be more

Newly-Opened International African American Museum Situated on Charleston Harbor is Dedicated to Teaching the Accurate History & Stories of the African-American Journey

By Aaron Morrison, Associated Press

When the [International African American Museum](#) opened to the public in July 2023 in South Carolina, it became a new site of homecoming and pilgrimage for descendants of enslaved Africans whose arrival in the Western Hemisphere began on the docks of the Lowcountry coast. Overlooking the old wharf in Charleston at which nearly half the enslaved population first entered North America, the 150,000-square-foot museum houses exhibitions and artifacts exploring how African Americans' labor, perseverance, resistance and cultures shaped the Carolinas, the nation and the world. It also includes a genealogy research center to help families trace their ancestors' journey from point of arrival on the land.

The opening comes at a time when the very idea of Black people's survival through slavery, racial apartheid and economic oppression being quintessential to the American story is being challenged throughout the United States. Leaders of the museum said its existence is not a rebuttal to current attempts to suppress history, but rather an invitation to dialogue and discovery.

"Show me a courageous space, show me an open space, show me a space that meets me where I am and then gets me where I asked to go," said Tonya Matthews, the museum's president and CEO. "I think that's the superpower of this museum. The only thing you need to bring to this museum is your curiosity and we'll do the rest."

Finding Freedom in History

The \$120-million facility features nine galleries that contain nearly a dozen interactive exhibitions of more than 150 historical objects and 30 works of art. One of the exhibitions will rotate two to three times each year.

Upon entering the space, eight large video screens play a looped trailer of a diasporic journey that spans centuries, from cultural

roots on the African continent and the horrors of the Middle Passage to the regional and international legacies that spawned out of Africans' dispersal and migration across lands. The screens are angled as if to beckon visitors toward large windows and a balcony at the rear of the museum, revealing sprawling views of Charleston Harbor.



The International African American Museum's permanent exhibitions feature more than 150 historical objects. (IAAMuseum.org)

One unique feature of the museum is its gallery dedicated to the history and culture of the Gullah Geechee people. Their isolation on rice, indigo and cotton plantations on coastal South Carolina, Georgia and North Florida helped them maintain ties to West African cultural traditions and creole language. A multimedia, chapel-sized "praise house" in the gallery highlights the faith expressions of the Gullah Geechee and shows how those expressions are imprinted on Black American gospel music.

"Truth sets us free--free to understand, free to respect and free to appreciate the full spectrum of our shared history," said former Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley Jr., who is widely credited for the idea to bring the museum to the city. Planning for the International African American Museum dates back to 2000, when Riley called for its creation in a State of the City address. It took many more years, through setbacks in fundraising and changes in museum leadership, before construction started in 2019. Originally set to open in 2020, the museum was further delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, as well as by issues in

the supply chain of materials needed to complete construction. Gadsden's Wharf, a 2.3-acre waterfront plot where it's estimated that up to 45% of enslaved Africans brought to the U.S. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries walked, sets the tone for how the museum is experienced. The wharf was built by Revolutionary War figure Christopher Gadsden. The land is now part of an intentionally designed ancestral garden. Black granite walls are erected on the spot of a former storage house, a space where hunched enslaved humans perished awaiting their transport to the slave market. The walls are emblazoned with lines of Maya Angelou's poem "And Still I Rise."

The museum's main structure does not touch the hallowed grounds on which it is located. Instead, it is hoisted above the wharf by 18 cylindrical columns. Beneath the structure is a shallow fountain tribute to the men, women and children whose bodies were inhumanely shackled together in the bellies of ships in the transatlantic slave trade. To discourage visitors from walking on the raised outlines of the shackled bodies, a walkway was created through the center of the wharf tribute.

"There's something incredibly significant about reclaiming a space that was once the landing point, the beginning of a horrific American journey for captured Africans," said Malika Pryor, the museum's chief learning & education officer.



"Tide Tribute," an exhibition at the International African American Museum, is grounded in relief figures, each representative of slaves who laid shackled in ships anchored at Charleston Harbor. (IAAMuseum.org)

Understanding the "Genealogical Proof Standard" for Family Problem-Solving

From the [FamilySearch Wiki](#)...

For a long time, serious genealogists have sought to define a standard by which their deduced conclusions—about an ancestral identity, event or relationship—could be measured, to appear cogent and reasonable to other colleagues and the world at large. For the most part, we are talking here about drawing conclusions when we find contradictory or ambiguous information and/or only indirect evidence about the matter or question we want to address. So often our genealogical procedures involve 'problem-solving' and not straightforward primary information with direct evidence.

1. For example, say your question is: Who is the father of my ancestor Patrick Flynn? Or you may have a **hypothesis**: I think Thomas Flynn is Patrick's father. You have found:

- Oral family tradition says that Thomas Flynn had four sons: Jack, Patrick, Henry, Seth.
- Patrick Flynn is in two 19th century census returns, in the household of Thomas and Lucy Flynn (no 'relationship' columns given).
- Patrick named one of his own sons Thomas.
- Wills for both Thomas Flynn and a Henry Flynn, who lived in the same general area and were approximately of the same generation, named a son Patrick.

We will come back to this genealogical question/problem below.

As the 20th century progressed, along with an explosion of genealogy-related books and Internet sites, so did the popularity of family history and genealogy for millions of people. Relevance for standards was initially found in 'borrowing' from academic style and legal criteria. In most classic 19th century books or articles on genealogical methods and problem-solving, you will find reference to the *preponderance of evidence* principle. It entered the vocabulary of genealogy as the

nearest existing principle that could be applied to our genealogical research conclusions. *Preponderance of the evidence* is a legal term used to decide issues in American civil courts. Canadians may be more familiar with the 'balance of probability' term—same concept. Applied to genealogical issues, it became widely used for 'proving' a genealogical conclusion; it only required that *the greater weight of the evidence* supported your conclusion.

2. In our case about Patrick Flynn, you have four pieces of information that connect him to a Thomas Flynn. Even though an original source (wills/estate files) reveals two men with a son Patrick, the greater weight of your evidence so far suggests that he is Thomas' son. But is this enough analysis of the information and the evidence? In fact, is this enough information?

It became apparent to genealogical educators that this principle was not quite strong enough or high enough in genealogical studies. On the other hand, the term used in criminal court cases, 'proof beyond a reasonable doubt' is too unequivocal for genealogical application. Perhaps only DNA evidence might be considered absolute proof—only if tissue from the deceased ancestor is included in the testing. Meanwhile we must use *all* the available sources and information while we are working on a problem, recognizing that future researchers may find new sources or techniques to change our conclusions.

Knowledgeable genealogists began to demand more from themselves—convincing arguments and clearly stated conclusions, including reasoned explanations of any conflicting evidence. Scholarly periodicals (as opposed to society newsletters or commercial magazines) began to encourage articles that displayed meticulous levels of research and presentation. In the last decade of the 20th century the Board for Certification of

Genealogists (BCG) became a leader of the movement to describe a standard of research "proof," among other standards related to genealogical studies, writing, and educating. The result of their joint efforts, from prominent North American genealogists, was the first edition of the *BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* in 2000.

3. If you conclude that Patrick was the son of Thomas Flynn from the mentioned four pieces of information, we asked: Is this enough analysis of the information and evidence? No, it is not, unless you have asked yourself the typical questions:

- How reliable are names and relationships in oral family tradition (the first source on our list)? It is usually a derivative source (especially if the ancestors are several generations removed from the informant).
 - The census is an original source, but unless relationships to the head of household are explicitly stated, there could be different reasons for Patrick's presence in Thomas' household. Are Patrick's alleged brothers also recorded at the same time? Are their ages reasonable for a family unit? Could Patrick be a grandson or a nephew of this couple?
 - Naming customs (a son after the father's father) is one of the weakest pieces of information. Even with cultural groups that doted on such custom, there are always exceptions. It could be supportive only on the demonstration of much stronger evidence.
 - The search for a will/estate file introduced the possibility that Patrick's father was a Henry Flynn. Can you show that Henry is not the father? What about Henry's household in various census returns? What other sons, if any, are mentioned in both wills?
4. These kinds of analytical questions raise a *doubt* about the identity of Patrick's father, even though the preponderance of evidence 'looks good'. (continued on page 5)

Genealogy News You Can Use...

Genealogical Proof Helps Researchers Know If All Available Sources Have Been Examined

(continued from page 4)

Therefore, to the second question, 'Is this enough information?' we have to answer that not all available sources have been examined. By extending the search to additional sources, not stopping at a 'slightly greater weight' of evidence, you will feel much more confident about your eventual conclusion.

"Evidence" and "Proof"

A word about these two words! Generally they have been used interchangeably. Lineage societies have traditionally used the word 'proof' meaning evidence in support of a certain conclusion. To some, the word 'proof' denotes a mathematical or legal absolute that is not necessarily applicable to our genealogical arguments and conclusions.

Genealogy is more akin to a biological science where much variation occurs and a cluster of attributes is needed to constitute proof. As said before, we strive to do the best we can with the materials at our disposal at any given moment in time. We provide thoughtful examination of the gathered information and its evidence to deduce an identity, relationship, and so on. 'The best we can' means pushing ourselves to find every relevant source.

You can state your conclusion by saying something like, 'I have proved Patrick was the son of Thomas Flynn because of the following ...' or you can say, 'The evidence shows that Patrick was the son of Thomas Flynn because...'

Genealogical Proof Standard

The GPS is almost simplicity itself. It is a logical procedural series that good family historians and genealogists have always followed, even if subconsciously. The five steps are:

1.) Making as wide a search as possible for sources that could help establish the identity, event or relationship under investigation.

2.) Recording in proper, acceptable format the source citation and/or the provider of the information.

3.) Analyzing and correlating the collected information—evaluating

the quality of sources and the reliability of information within them.

4.) Resolving any conflicting, contradictory evidence with reasoned argument.

5.) Stating your conclusion convincingly (more than a "balance of probability").

5. Where are we with Patrick Flynn? We had four pieces of information that could be 'argued' that he is the son of Thomas (and Lucy), by the preponderance of evidence principle. But how far did the 'as wide a search as possible' go? Not far enough, if we can pose some additional, generalized (for purposes of our fictitious case) sources that did not appear in our first four sources:

—Starting with the last event in his personal timeline, was a death certificate located for Patrick? Did it name his parents? Although information about his parents would be secondary, it is new information to add to the collection.

—Similarly, a potential newspaper obituary might mention his parents, although the information is still secondary.

—Patrick's marriage record would be of primary interest. If it occurred at a time period when the names of parents were required, presumably he provided that information himself.

—Searching for sources can move on to Thomas Flynn and Henry Flynn if Patrick's father has not been satisfactorily resolved. How many other children are named in their wills, and how do they fit with what you know so far about Patrick?

—Did the deaths of Thomas and Henry (dates presumably recorded within their estate files) generate newspaper obituaries that detail the names and locations of their children? If both had a son Patrick, which one corresponds to the location for 'your' Patrick?

—What about Lucy, the wife of Thomas in census returns? Did she outlive her husband? Did she leave a probated will? Is there an obituary for her that identifies her children?

—The same would apply to the wife of Henry Flynn, if necessary at this point.

—Comparison of the two families/ households in additional census returns could fit into the search, depending on the unfolding of results in your progress.

—Derivative sources such as histories of the town, township, county (not to forget that local churches have also published anniversary histories) should not be ignored for what might be merely corroborative family information, or in difficult cases, give important clues that never appear elsewhere.

—In a very difficult scenario, when none of the above sources are available or do not yield satisfying answers to the sum of the question/hypothesis, there may be the possibility of working from a different family angle. If you have convinced yourself that your Patrick had a brother called Seth (or some other brother), researching events and records pertaining to Seth may better demonstrate the names of his parents. Of course the brother relationship should also have solid backing.

Sample Proof Argument/ Conclusion

Patrick Flynn (1845-1908) was the son of Thomas Flynn (1818-1881) of xxxx town, township, county, province/state. The informant on Patrick's death certificate* named his father as Thomas, and this is supported by his appearance in 1851 and 1861 census returns* as a youngster in Thomas' household. Furthermore, the other children in the same census households are named in Thomas' will along with Patrick. The names of his siblings also correspond with oral family stories*. In addition, Patrick's newspaper obituary* mentions his surviving brothers; once again, the names agree.



*Each reference to a source should be foot-noted with a citation.

