

## Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

May-Jun-Jul 2017

Vol. 14 Issue 3

# Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Message from the CGHS President...

Funny, the things that get you thinking... pondering on things that make us smile and remind us of our humanity. Last weekend Bruce and I went to my 45th High School Reunion. There are two things in particular that stood out for me. First, most of us had grown up. I found that in general age had improved us in almost every way - Well, in ways that matter. We were kinder, more thoughtful than we had been. We had learned how to be good listeners. We were compassionate as we shared common life experiences - dealing with adult children and grandchildren, retirement, caring for aging parents and sending them on... We realized that we were all much more alike in spite of our differences. It was nice. It is nice to grow up.

Secondly, one of my classmates asked us about our "bucket lists"... the things that we would still like to do. It is a fun thing to ponder and consider the possibilities. I found that there are a lot of things that I no longer want to do, like run a marathon. I would like to go to Italy and Greece, and there are still a lot of books I want to read. And I want to take Bruce to see Devil's Tower and Mount Rushmore. Somehow he missed the trip when I took all the kiddos there. I think I need to do a little planning... Take a few minutes to smile over some memories. Consider the talents and skills that are yours because of your age and experience. Update that bucket list - Pick out something you have always wanted to do, and make it happen before the year is out. Now is all we have.

*Gloria Milmont, President*



### Upcoming Events:

**17 August 2017**  
**"It's More Fun to Seek Than to File"**  
Pat Roberts  
6:30-8:30 p.m., Old Town Library, Fort Collins  
Larimer County Genealogy Society Monthly Meeting

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

**12 September, 2017**  
**"Serendipity Surprises"**  
6:15-8:30 p.m.  
CGHS Monthly Meeting  
Laramie County Library

**15-17 September, 2017**  
**Family Tree University Fall Virtual Genealogy Conference**  
Registration open at:  
<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/pages/virtual-conference>

**14 October, 2017**  
**"Conference for a Cause: Day of DNA"**  
Blaine Bettinger, DNA Specialist, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Community Room. Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland, Colo.  
Larimer County Genealogy Society—See registration information below:

## "Day of DNA: 3rd Conference for a Cause" to be Held Oct 14 in Loveland

Larimer County Genealogical Society's

### Conference for a Cause 2017

#### A Full-Day DNA Seminar



Featuring DNA specialist  
**Blaine T. Bettinger**  
"The Genetic Genealogist"

Presenting:

"Genetic Genealogy Education"  
"Using Autosomal DNA for 18th & 19th Century Mysteries"  
"Using Third-Party Tools to Analyze Your Autosomal DNA"  
"Phasing and Mapping Your DNA"

**Saturday, October 14, 2017**

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland

\$50 / person

Information and Registration at [LCGSCO.ORG](http://LCGSCO.ORG)

Conference for a Cause 2017 benefits the Archive at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery and Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection.



The Larimer County Genealogy Society has announced that registration is open for their third "Conference for a Cause," an all-day family history seminar to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2017 in Loveland, Colo., at the Medical Center of the Rockies, Community Room. "Day of DNA" is designed for beginner to intermediate skill levels. It's an informational, educational and genetic-genealogy filled day. Early registration is \$50.

Featured speaker, Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is an intellectual property attorney by day and a DNA specialist by night. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist* ([www.thegeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com)), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Dr. Bettinger has been interviewed and quoted on personal genomics topics for *Newsweek*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, and other media. He is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in*

*Practice*, the world's first genetic genealogy workbook. Blaine frequently authors articles and gives presentations to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry. He is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at numerous institutes and events. More conference information and registration can be found at: <http://www.lcgSCO.org/events/conference-for-a-cause-2017/>

A glimpse back at the past...

## "Orphan Trains" Carried Orphaned, Abandoned City Children to New Homes

Information in this article is from Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan\\_Train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train) under its Creative Commons Attribution.

The **Orphan Train Movement** was a supervised welfare program that transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located largely in rural areas of the Midwest. The orphan trains operated between 1854 and 1929, relocating about 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children. Three charitable institutions, Children's Village (founded 1851 by 24 philanthropists), the Children's Aid Society (established 1853 by Charles Loring Brace) and later, the New York Foundling Hospital, endeavored to help these children. The institutions were supported by wealthy donors and operated by professional staff. The two institutions developed a program that placed homeless, orphaned, and abandoned city children, who numbered an estimated 30,000 in New York City alone in the 1850s, in foster homes throughout the country. The children were transported to their new homes on trains that were labeled "orphan trains" or "baby trains". This relocation of children ended in the 1920s with the beginning of organized foster care in America.



Jacob Riis made heart-wrenching pictures late in the 19th century of lost New York street children.

The first orphanage in the United States was reportedly established in 1729 in Natchez, Mississippi, but institutional orphanages were uncommon before the early 19th century. Relatives or neighbors usually raised children who had lost parents. Arrangements were informal and rarely involved courts. Around 1830, the number of

homeless children in large Eastern cities such as New York City exploded. In 1850, there were an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 homeless children in New York City. At the time, New York City's population was only 500,000. Some children were orphaned when their parents died in epidemics of typhoid, yellow fever or the flu. Others were abandoned due to poverty, illness or addiction. Some of them, actually about 60 percent, were not legitimately parentless, but their single parents, usually their mothers, simply couldn't afford to feed and house them. Civil War widows, in particular, couldn't hack the expenses of parenthood, and there were no social programs to help them. Many children sold matches, rags, or newspapers to survive. For protection against street violence, they banded together and formed gangs. Today the original orphans have two million descendants in this country.

### Children's Aid Society

In 1853, a young minister named Charles Loring Brace became concerned with the plight of street children (often known as "street Arabs" or "street rats" as older children were referred to by police). He founded the Children's Aid Society. During its first year the Children's Aid Society primarily offered boys religious guidance and vocational and academic instruction. Eventually, the society established the nation's first runaway shelter, the Newsboys' Lodging House, where vagrant boys received inexpensive room and board and basic education. Brace and his colleagues attempted to find jobs and homes for individual children, but they soon became overwhelmed by the numbers needing placement. Brace hit on the idea of sending groups of children to rural areas for adoption. Brace believed that street children would have better lives if they left the poverty and debauchery of their lives in New York City and were instead raised by morally up-

right farm families. Recognizing the need for labor in the expanding farm country, Brace believed that farmers would welcome homeless children, take them into their homes and treat them as their own. His program would turn out to be a forerunner of modern foster care. After a year of dispatching children individually to farms in nearby Connecticut, Pennsylvania and rural New

York, the Children's Aid Society mounted its first large-scale expedition to the Midwest in September 1854.

The phrase "orphan train" was first used in 1854 to describe the transportation of children from their home area via the railroad. However, the term "Orphan Train" was not widely used until long after the Orphan Train program had ended. The Children's Aid Society referred to its relevant division first as the Emigration Department, then as the Home-Finding Department, and finally, as the Department of Foster Care. Later, the New York Foundling Hospital sent out what it called "baby" or "mercy" trains. Organizations and families generally used the terms "family placement" or "out-placement" ("out" to distinguish it from the placement of children "in" orphanages or asylums) to refer to orphan train passengers. Widespread use of the term "orphan train" may date to 1978, when CBS aired a fictional miniseries

entitled "The Orphan Trains." One reason the term was not used by placement agencies was that less than half of the children who rode the trains were in fact orphans,

and as many as 25% had two living parents. Children with both parents living ended up on the trains — or in orphanages — because their families did not have the money or desire to raise them or because they had been abused or abandoned or had run away. And many teenage boys and girls went to orphan train sponsoring organizations simply in search of work or a free ticket out of the city. The term "orphan trains" is also misleading because a substantial number of the placed-out children didn't take the railroad to their new homes and some didn't even travel very far. The state that received the greatest number of children (nearly one-third of the total)

(continued on page 3)



1910 Orphan Train flyer



(Orphan Trains continued from page 2)  
 was New York. Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania also received substantial numbers of children. For most of the orphan train era, the Children's Aid Society bureaucracy made no distinction between local placements and even its most distant ones. They were all written up in the same record books and, on the whole, managed by the same people. Also, the same child might be placed one time in the West and the next time — if the first home did not work out — in New York City. The decision about where to place a child was made almost entirely on the basis of which alternative was most readily available at the moment the child needed help.



A quarter million children rode the orphan trains from 1854-1929. (Photo courtesy Kansas State Historical Society.)

### The First Orphan Train

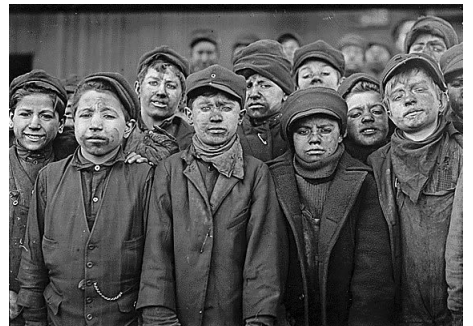
The first group of 45 children arrived in Dowagiac, Michigan, on October 1, 1854. The children had traveled for days in uncomfortable conditions. They were accompanied by E. P. Smith of the Children's Aid Society. Smith himself had let two different passengers on the riverboat from Manhattan adopt boys without checking their references. Smith added a boy he met in the Albany railroad yard — a boy whose claim to orphanhood Smith never bothered to verify. At a meeting in Dowagiac, Smith played on his audience's sympathy while pointing out that the boys were handy and the girls could be used for all types of housework. In an account of the trip published by the Children's Aid Society, Smith said that in order to get a child, applicants had to have recommendations from their pastor and a justice of the peace, but it is unlikely that this requirement was strictly enforced. By the end of that first day, fifteen boys and girls had been placed with local families. Five days later, twenty-two more children had been adopted. Smith and the remaining eight children traveled to Chicago where Smith put them on a

train to Iowa City by themselves where a Reverend C. C. Townsend, who ran a local orphanage, took them in and attempted to find them foster families. This first expedition was considered such a success that in January 1855 the society sent out two more parties of homeless children to Pennsylvania.

Committees of prominent local citizens were organized in the towns where orphan trains stopped. These committees were responsible for arranging a site for the adoptions, publicizing the event, and arranging lodging for the orphan train group. These committees were also required to consult with the Children's Aid Society on the suitability of local families interested in adopting children. Brace's system put its faith in the kindness of strangers. Orphan train children were placed in homes for free and were expected to serve as an extra pair of hands to help with chores around the farm. Families expected to raise them as they would their natural-born children, providing them with decent food and clothing, a "common" education, and \$100 when they turned 21. Older children placed by the Children's Aid Society were supposed to be paid for their labors: legal adoption was not required. According to the Children's Aid Society's "Terms on Which Boys are Placed in Homes,"

boys under twelve were to be "treated by the applicants as one of their own children in matters of schooling, clothing, and training," and boys twelve to fifteen were to be "sent to a school a part of each year." Representatives from the society were supposed to visit each family once a year to check conditions, and children were expected to write letters back to the society twice a year. There were only a handful of agents to monitor thousands of placements. Before they boarded the train, children were dressed in new clothing, given a Bible and placed in the care of Children's Aid Society agents who accompanied them west. Few children understood what was happening. Once they did, their reactions ranged from delight at finding a new family to anger and resentment at being "placed out" when they still had relatives "back home." Most children on the trains were white. An attempt was made to place non-English speakers with people who spoke their language. German-speaking Bill Landkamer rode an orphan train several times as a preschooler in the 1920s before being accepted by a German family in Nebraska. Babies were easiest to place, but finding homes for children older than 14 was always difficult be-

cause of concern that they were too set in their ways or might have bad habits. Children who were physically or mentally disabled or sickly were difficult to find homes for. Although many siblings were sent out together on orphan trains, prospective parents could choose to take a single child, separating siblings. Many orphan train children went to live with families that placed orders specifying age, gender, and hair and eye color. Others were paraded from the depot into a local playhouse, where they were put up on stage, thus the origin of the term "up for adoption." According to an exhibit panel from the National Orphan Train Complex, the children "took turns giving their names, singing a little ditty, or saying a piece." According to Sara Jane Richter, professor of history at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, the children often had unpleasant experiences. "People came along and prodded them, and looked, and felt, and saw how many teeth they had." Press accounts convey the spectacle, and sometimes auction-like atmosphere, attending the arrival of a new group of children. "Some ordered boys, others girls, some preferred light babies, others dark, and the orders were filled out properly and every new parent was delighted," reported *The Daily Independent* of Grand Island, Nebraska in May 1912. "They were very healthy tots and as pretty as anyone ever laid eyes on." Brace raised money for the program through his writings and speeches. Wealthy



New York and other Eastern cities were filled with destitute, neglected and orphaned children who lived on the streets. The purpose of moving them by train was to give the children a chance at a better life.

people occasionally sponsored trainloads of children. Charlotte Augusta Gibbs, wife of John Jacob Astor III, had sent 1,113 children west by train by 1884. Railroads gave discount fares to the children and the agents who cared for them. (continued on page 4)

# More Than 200,000 Children Rode the Orphan Trains From 1854-1929

(Orphan Trains continued from page 3)  
The Children's Aid Society's sent an average of 3,000 children via train each year from 1855 to 1875. Orphan trains were sent to 45 states, as well as Canada and Mexico. During the early years, Indiana received the largest number of children. At the beginning of the Children's Aid Society orphan train program, children were not sent to the southern states, as Brace was an ardent

families.

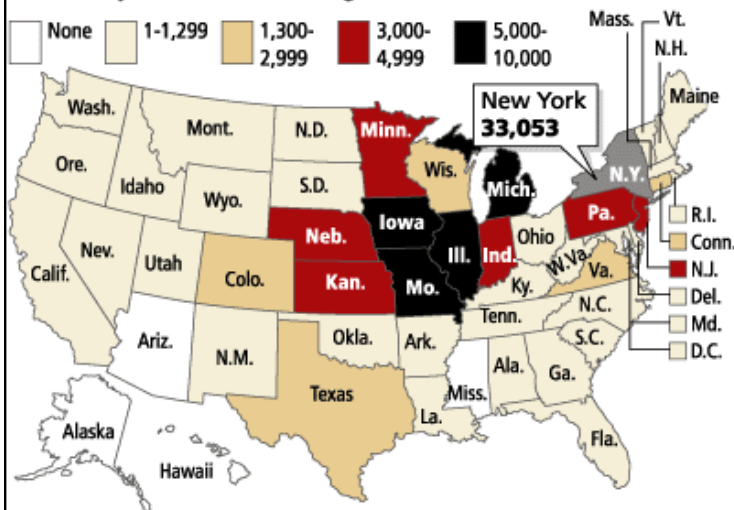
Linda McCaffery, a professor at Barton County Community College, explained the range of Orphan Train experiences: "Many were used as strictly slave farm labor, but there are stories, wonderful stories of children ending up in fine families that loved them, cherished them, [and] educated them." Orphan train children faced obstacles ranging from prejudice of classmates

past." Many children placed out west had survived on the streets of New York, Boston or other large eastern cities and generally they were not the obedient children many families expected. In 1880, a Mr. Coffin of Indiana editorialized, "Children so thrown out from the cities are a source of much corruption in the country places where they are thrown... Very few such children are useful."

Some placement locations charged that orphan trains were dumping undesirable children from the East on Western communities. In 1874, the National Prison Reform Congress charged that these practices resulted in increased correctional expenses in the West. Older boys wanted to be paid for their labor, sometimes asking for additional pay or leaving a placement to find a higher paying placement. It is estimated that young men initiated 80% of the placement changes. One of the many children who rode the train was Lee Nailling. Lee's mother died of sickness; after her death Lee's father could not afford to keep his children. Another orphan train child was named Alice Ayler. Alice rode the train because her single mother could not provide for her children; before the journey they lived off of

## Where the orphans went

Numbers of children placed from 1854 to 1910 by the Children's Aid Society, one of two main agencies at the time.



abolitionist. By the 1870s, the New York Foundling Hospital and the New England Home for Little Wanderers in Boston all had orphan train programs of their own.

### New York Foundling Hospital "Mercy Trains"

The New York Foundling Hospital was established in 1869 by Sister Mary Irene Fitzgibbon of the Sisters of Charity of New York as a shelter for abandoned infants. The Sisters worked in conjunction with priests throughout the Midwest and South in an effort to place these children in Catholic families. The Foundling Hospital sent infants and toddlers to prearranged Roman Catholic homes from 1875 to 1914. Parishioners in the destination regions were asked to accept children, and parish priests provided applications to approved families. This practice was first known as the "Baby Train," then later the "Mercy Train." By the 1910s, 1,000 children a year were placed with new

low-up on placements. Charities were also criticized for not keeping track of children placed while under their care. In 1883, Brace consented to an independent investigation. It found the local committees were ineffective at screening foster parents. Supervision was lax. Many older boys had run away. But its overall conclusion was positive. The majority of children under fourteen were leading satisfactory lives. Applicants for children were supposed to be screened by committees of local businessmen, ministers, or physicians, but the screening was rarely very thorough. Small-town ministers, judges, and other local leaders were often reluctant to reject a potential foster parent as unfit if he were also a friend or customer. Many children lost their identity through forced name changes and repeated moves. In 1996, Alice Ayler said, "I was one of the luckier ones because I know my heritage. They took away the identity of the younger riders by not allowing contact with the



Two agents and their precious load of children to be relocated.

"berries" and "green water." Catholic clergy maintained that some charities were deliberately placing Catholic children in Protestant homes to change their religious practices. The Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children in the City of New York (known as the Protectory) was founded in 1863. The Protectory ran

(continued on page 5)



(Orphan Trains continued from page 4)  
orphanages and place-out programs for Catholic youth in response to Brace's Protestant-centered program. Similar charges of conversion via adoption were made concerning the placement of Jewish children.

Not all orphan train children were true orphans, but were made into orphans by forced removal from their biological families to be placed out in other states. Some claimed this was a deliberate pattern intended to break up immigrant Catholic families. Some abolitionists opposed placements of children with Western families, viewing indentureship as a form of slavery. Orphan trains were the target of lawsuits, generally filed by parents seeking to reclaim their children. Suits were occasionally filed by a receiving parent or family member claiming to have lost money or been harmed as the result of the placement. The Minnesota State Board of Corrections and Charities reviewed Minnesota orphan train placements between 1880 and 1883. The Board found that while children were placed hastily and without proper investigation into their placements, only a few children were "depraved" or abused. The review criticized local committee members who were swayed by pressure from wealthy and important individuals in their community. The Board also pointed out that older children were frequently placed with farmers who expected to profit from their labor. The Board recommended that paid agents replace or supplement local committees in investigating and reviewing all applications and placements.

A complicated lawsuit arose from a 1904 Arizona Territory orphan train placement in which the New York Foundling Hospital sent 40 Caucasian

children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years to be indentured to Catholic families in an Arizona Territory parish. The families approved by the local priest for placement were identified in the subsequent litigation as "Mexican Indian." Nuns escorting these children were unaware of the racial tension between local Anglo and Mexican groups, and placed Caucasian children with Mexican Indian families. A group of white men, described as "just short of a lynch mob," forcibly took the children from the Mexican Indian homes and placed most of them with Anglo families. Some of the children were returned to the Foundling Hospital, but 19 remained with the Anglo Arizona Territory families. The Foundling Hospital filed a writ of habeas corpus seeking the return of these children. The Arizona Supreme Court held that the best interests of the children required that they remain in their new Arizona homes. On appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court found that a writ of habeas corpus seeking the return of a child constituted an improper use of the writ. Habeas corpus writs should be used "solely in cases of arrest and forcible imprisonment under color or claim of warrant of law," and should not be used to obtain or transfer custody of children. These events were well publicized at the time with newspaper stories titled "Babies Sold Like Sheep," telling readers that the New York Foundling Hospital "has for years been shipping children in car-loads all over the country, and they are given away or sold like cattle."

#### End of the Movement

As the West was settled, the demand for adoptable children declined. Additionally, Midwestern cities such as Chicago, Cleveland and St. Louis began to experience the neglected children problems that New York, Boston and Philadelphia had experienced in the mid-1800s. These

cities began to seek ways to care for their own orphan populations. In 1895, Michigan passed a statute prohibiting out-of-state children from local placement without payment of a bond guaranteeing that children placed in Michigan would not become a public charge in the State. Similar laws were passed by Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. Negotiated agreements between one or more New York charities and several western states allowed the continued placement of children in these states. Such agreements included large bonds as security for placed children. In 1929, however, these agreements expired and were not renewed as charities changed their child care support strategies. Lastly, the need for the orphan train movement decreased as legislation was passed providing in-home family support. Charities began developing programs to support destitute and needy families limiting the need for intervention to place out children.

#### Legacy of the Program

Between 1854 and 1929, an estimated 200,000 American children traveled west by rail in search of new homes. The Children's Aid Society rated its transplanted wards successful if they grew into "creditable members of society," and frequent reports documented the success stories. A 1910 survey concluded that 87 percent of the children sent to country homes had "done well," while 8 percent had returned to New York and the other 5 percent had either died, disappeared or gotten arrested. Brace's notion that children are better cared for by families than in institutions is the most basic tenet of present-day foster care.



## To Streamline Your Family History Use FamilySearch's "Family Tree Lite"

By Leslie Albrecht Huber, Family Search Blog, May, 2017

In recent years, FamilySearch has added a variety of tools that can both enrich your tree and make your research experience faster and more productive. You can attach photos, list sources—and attach or link to them—use record hints, search partner sites, and more. FamilySearch's FamilyTree mobile app carries these capabilities over to your phone or other mobile device. It's truly amazing how much FamilySearch can do. But have you ever wished FamilySearch did less? There are a number of reasons this might be the case. The first is limited available

internet bandwidth. All the bells and whistles of FamilySearch.org run smoothly when bandwidth is plentiful. But in situations where it's not, they can bog down the connection. A simpler site means a faster, less frustrating connection when bandwidth is limited such as in some countries or even just areas with less than stellar internet speed, or when too many devices are competing with one another. Another benefit of a simpler site is that simplicity means less data used on mobile devices—which could lead to significant money saved. These are some of the reasons that FamilySearch has released a new streamlined version of FamilySearch's Family Tree, known

as [Family Tree Lite](#), which looks visually different than the regular Family Tree. The information is presented in a list instead of the usual tree format. It starts with the family in which you are the parent, and then continues with the family in which you are a child, then your father's family, your mother's family, and so forth. Clicking the names of individuals will take you to their personal screen, which also sticks to the basics. Neither the family list screen nor the individual screen include photos, sources, hints, links, etc., which still exist in the full FamilySearch Family Tree site.

# Genealogy News You Can Use...

## Family Search Announces: "the End of Microfilm" Service

*This article is reprinted with permission from the author, Judy G. Russell, a New Jersey genealogist with a law degree, from her blog, "The Legal Genealogist." The article, "The End of Microfilm" was posted on Jun 29, 2017. To see more of her articles, visit her blog at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/>*

### An inconvenience...

We all knew this day was coming. The Legal Genealogist and everyone else who has been watching the slow but steady demise of the microfilm business over the past several years could see the handwriting on the wall. FamilySearch and the Family History Library have been moving over from microfilm to digital for years now. Cameras out in the field copying records today are all digital, more and more of the microfilmed record sets are being digitized — and it's been more and more trouble to keep microfilm readers working and even to find raw microfilm to make new copies of microfilmed records. So it's really no surprise that the end of microfilm as a medium for records access was coming. And now we have an end date: August 31 of this year will be the last day on which we as genealogists can order microfilm from FamilySearch. This announcement came [in June]:

"FamilySearch, a world genealogy leader and nonprofit, announced today its plans to discontinue its 80-year-old microfilm distribution service. The transition is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. **The last day for ordering microfilm will be August 31, 2017.** Online access to digital images of the world's historic records allows FamilySearch to service more people around the globe, faster and more efficiently. FamilySearch has now digitally reproduced the bulk of its microfilm collection—over 1.5 billion images so far—including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.<sup>1</sup>"

Bummer. This will be an inconvenience. And, occasionally, a major inconvenience.

And, occasionally, a major convenience.

And one that we're all going to have to adjust to, so let's get to it.

### Here's the bottom line:

By the end of 2020, many of the records now available on microfilm will be available digitally. Many of those digitized records will be available easily, to anyone with a computer; some we'll have to access only at a specific location. Some won't be available in the interim until the transition process is complete. And some won't be available at all, period. Let's look at these.

**1. CONVENIENT: More and more records will be digitized and put online without any restrictions.** That means many basic genealogical records will be available from the internet, from any computer, at home, at 3 a.m., in our bunny slippers. This, of course, is the good part. As time goes on, more and more of the records we all need and want to access will be available free to anyone who has a computer and web access. Whenever and wherever the contractual arrangements with the original provider allow, the records will simply be there, for all of us to use whenever and wherever we wish. Take a look at the record sets now available just for the [United States with digital images](#): there are, as of today, 821 record sets ranging from Alabama Civil War service records (available in partnership with Fold3.com) to obituaries from the *Star Valley (Wyoming) Independent*. And it's not just those in the Historical Records sets either. If you go through the [FamilySearch catalog](#) for any location, and choose the option for records online, you'll see that there are many more record sets that have been digitized already — and more coming online every day. Considering that this is free to most of us,<sup>2</sup> this is a truly wonderful thing. And a major convenience for us all.

**2. MINOR INCONVENIENCE: Most records digitized but available only with restrictions should be accessible at the FHL and Family History Centers.** A fair number of record sets now available digitally come with contractual restrictions: FamilySearch isn't being allowed to put them online for everyone to access at any time. To access most of those, we're going to have to be at the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City or at a Family History Center (FHC). This is really only a minor inconvenience, since that's the same way we access much of the microfilm today: if the record isn't available online, we either go to the

Family History Library and use the microfilm there (or hire someone to do it for us) or we order it to be delivered to a local Family History Center and use it there. Now... there is a hitch here. Right now, we can view the microfilm right at the FHL if we happen to be in Salt Lake City, or order the film to be delivered to any of the FHCs or to a Family History Library affiliate. It's that third group that we're going to be losing for some of these records. Both the FHL and the FHCs are directly associated with the LDS Church and under its control. The affiliates are not. They're often public or genealogical libraries like, for example, the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., or the Clayton Library in Houston. And because of contractual issues, some of the digitized record sets aren't available at the affiliates. That will be an inconvenience, since there are a lot of affiliates with a lot more hours of accessibility than any FHC can offer. Most FHCs are open only a day or two a week for only a few hours at a time. I don't want to understate the inconvenience here, but I don't want to overstate it either. Before there was an affiliate program, and before any records were digitized, this go-to-FHL-or-FHC system was all we had. We handled it before. We can handle it again. And once we get there, we won't need fancy readers (many of which were broken when we needed them), and we won't have to crank any films: it'll be digital on any computer on site. We may want to have everything available online at 3 a.m. in our bunny slippers, or even at an affiliate at 1 p.m. on a Friday, but we can live with this.



**3. INCONVENIENCE: Records not yet digitized will only be available on microfilm at limited locations.** If the specific microfilmed record hasn't yet been digitized, it may only be available at the Family History Library or, if the film is already on long-term loan

(continued on page 7)



(End of Microfilm continued from page 6)  
at a Family History Center or affiliate.. This is an inconvenience for sure, but we can help make it a *relatively* minor inconvenience — or at least it *should* only be minor *if* we order microfilm we think we might need in the coming months before the August 31 deadline. Anything we think we might need before the end of 2020 that isn't digitized now can be ordered for what's called extended loan before August 31. So right now we can all make a major effort to consider what our research priorities will be in the next 40-44 months (until the end of 2020, when the digitization will be pretty much complete) and pony up to have the films for that research sent on long-term loan to one of the FHCs or one of the affiliates. Film that's already there at any of these locations doesn't have to be sent back: "centers, including affiliate libraries, may continue to maintain microfilm collections already on loan from FamilySearch after microfilm ordering ends. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed."<sup>3</sup> Now I get it: this isn't fun and it isn't free. Long-term loans are \$18.75 a roll, and it isn't realistic to think we can anticipate — or afford — all of the films we might need in the next three-plus years. But we can mitigate some of the pain by planning ahead and getting key record sets we know we're going to want local access to into a convenient FHC or affiliate now. If we don't get the film into a convenient location now, we're going to have to access it in person only at the FHL or hire someone to retrieve the record for us. That's inconvenient.

**4. MAJOR INCONVENIENCE:** Some records now available only on what are called vault films won't be available at all until they are digitized. Depending on where a specific roll of microfilm is in the filming queue, if you need access to a specific set of records, you may not be able to get to it until the end of 2020. For example, right now, Book 7 of the Circuit Court Minutes for Cherokee County, Alabama, is divided between two rolls of microfilm. Pages 1-107 are Item 4 on roll 2296893, and that's at the Family History Library. But Pages 107 to the end are item 1 on roll 2296894 — and that's listed as a Granite Mountain Record Vault film. That's a problem. Because, according to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, anything not already at the Family History Library isn't going to be accessible even at the Family History Library: "The library will no longer be

able to offer ordering of new films from the vault."<sup>4</sup> That doesn't mean I can't get to any copy of these records. They're on microfilm at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and likely at some local libraries in Alabama as well. That won't be convenient in any way — it'll be a major inconvenience to get to them — but it doesn't mean they won't be available at all. And, again, if I plan ahead and order the film for long-term loan now, I may be able to have it available locally until it gets reached in the digitization process. Or I may simply have to wait it out until the digitization process gets around to this film. That's certainly a major inconvenience.

**5. HUGE INCONVENIENCE:** Some records now available only on what are called vault films won't be available at all if FamilySearch can't resolve contract issues. The biggest issue I can see is that some of these vault films — and that includes some critically important international films — may never be digitized because of contract issues. If it can't be digitized at all, and it can't be ordered for access even at the FHL, then we're going to lose any chance of getting to the record except in its native locale. I'm using the term "huge inconvenience" here when what I really mean is "potentially catastrophic record access loss for everyone not wealthy or healthy enough to travel, sometimes internationally." We don't know and won't know for some time how many films fall into this last category. We can only hope they will be few and far between. Sigh... we knew this day was coming... Progress doesn't always look like progress, does it?

#### SOURCES

1. "[FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm](#)," FamilySearch, posted 26 June 2017 (<http://media.familysearch.org/> : accessed 28 June 2017).
2. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints pay for this through their tithes; those of us who are not church members are along for a free ride.
3. "[What will happen to microfilms at family history centers once ordering is discontinued?](#)," FAQ: Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm, FamilySearch, posted 26 June 2017 (<https://familysearch.org/ask/faq> : accessed 28 June 2017).
4. Ibid., "[Will microfilm continue to be available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City?](#)"

## MyHeritage Announced Its Acquisition of Millennia Corporation—Maker of Legacy Family Tree Software & Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Tel Aviv, Israel & Surprise, Arizona, August 3, 2017—[MyHeritage](#), the leading global destination for family history and DNA testing, announced its acquisition of Millennia Corporation, maker of the popular genealogy desktop software [Legacy Family Tree](#) and genealogy webinar platform, [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#). This is MyHeritage's ninth acquisition to date. Legacy Family Tree consistently ranks among the top three most popular and highly rated genealogy software products in the industry. The Legacy Family Tree Webinar platform — which has amassed a large and dedicated fan base since 2010 — draws speakers who are leaders in their field and covers a wide variety of topics, including genealogical research methodology, DNA, and historical records, representing a full array of educational genealogy content. MyHeritage, which has developed a world-class, global mobile and Web platform for family trees, historical records and DNA testing, used by more than 90 million users worldwide, will now offer its services to Legacy's users. Legacy Family Tree will retain its full staff and continue developing its software and webinar platform, backed by MyHeritage's resources. Millennia Corporation and MyHeritage have started joint work on a new version of the Legacy Family Tree software—version 10—which will include the optional capability to sync family trees to MyHeritage's website and use the free MyHeritage mobile app to make remote updates to their family trees on the Legacy software. Legacy Family Tree version 9 has already integrated matching to MyHeritage's 40 million family trees and to its historical records collection — which recently surpassed 8 billion records. Legacy Family Tree Webinars will continue to feature diverse and informative content, and will be promoted to the millions of MyHeritage users, to increase the webinars' audience. The webinar platform will also enjoy infrastructure upgrades to support increased concurrent viewership. For more information about this announcement and for answers to frequently asked questions, visit: <http://LegacyNews>

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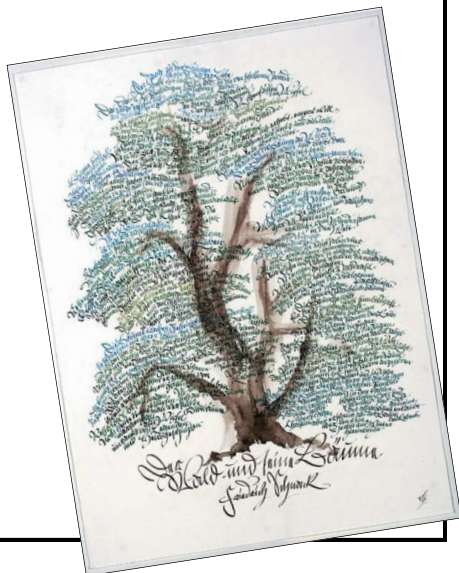
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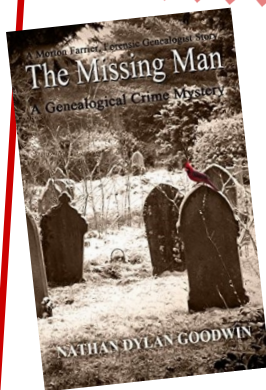
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The Cheyenne Genealogical &  
Historical Society welcomes  
these new members who have  
recently joined the organization:  
—Eric & Sherry Crosby



## "Check This Out"

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



***The Missing Man:***  
***A Genealogical Crime Mystery***  
by Nathan Dylan Goodwin c 2017  
Self Published, 132 pp

It was to be the most important case of Morton Farrier's career in forensic genealogy so far—a case that had eluded him for many years: finding his own father. Harley 'Jack' Jacklin disappeared just six days after a fatal fire at his Cape Cod home on Christmas Eve in 1976, leaving no trace behind. Now his son, Morton must travel to the East Coast of America to unravel the family's dark secrets in order to discover what happened to him. Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist, is back with a new, much more personal case to solve. Will a three-week honeymoon in America be long enough for him to find his biological father and discover the secret he is keeping? What will the records in Boston untangle? A former life? A former wife? Morton's investigation will lead him through a twisted tale of family, mysterious fires and murder! What could lead him to his elusive father when disappearing is the family business? Nathan Dylan Goodwin has delivered another page-turning mystery laden with forensic genealogical clues that will keep any family historian glued to the book until the mystery is solved.

Other books by Nathan Goodwin include:

*Hiding the Past*  
*The Lost Ancestor*  
*The Orange Lilies*  
*The America Ground*  
*The Spyglass File*

—Book Review by Dina C. Carson, who owns Iron Gate Publishing; besides authoring self-help books on writing family history, she is a gravestone photographer, author of Boulder County history books, and active volunteer for Colorado societies. Bobbi King is Book Review editor with Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, <https://eogn.com/>. She is recently retired. *The Missing Man* by Nathan Dylan Goodwin is available on Amazon at: <http://amzn.to/2qfLPvQ>.

### Did You Know...

The Library of Congress has placed online nearly 25,000 [Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#), which depict the structure and use of buildings in U.S. cities and towns. Maps will be added monthly until 2020, for a total of approximately 500,000. The online collection now features maps published prior to 1900. The states available include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Alaska is also online, with maps published through the early 1960s. By 2020, all the states will be online, showing maps from the late 1880s through the early 1960s. In collaboration with the Library's Geography and Map Division, historical information gatherers digitized the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps during a 16-month period at the Library of Congress. The Library is in the process of adding metadata and placing the digitized, public-domain maps on its website. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are a valuable resource for genealogists, historians, urban planners, teachers or anyone with a personal connection to a community, street or building. The maps depict more than 12,000 American towns and cities. They show the size, shape and construction materials of dwellings, commercial buildings, factories and other structures. They indicate both the names and width of streets, and show property boundaries and how individual buildings were used. House and block numbers are also identified. (Source: Library of Congress)