

*Cheyenne Genealogical &  
Historical Society*

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## Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Message From Your CGHS President . . .

I am a relatively new genealogical family researcher. The first ray of hope that I hadn't gotten myself into something that was beyond my ability was learning about the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society. It gave me a sense of stability that there was a local resource. I joined and started attending meetings. There came a time when I was asked to assist with leading the group. I joined and continue to receive the benefits of the society. Thus, it leads me to the question: How can our Society continue without membership participation? Now is the time for the membership to demonstrate their desire for the Society to continue. Currently, the Society is at risk of the members who have been continually active to burn out. At

#### Many Hands Make Light Work



this time two of our board members are pulling double duty. Judy Engelhart, vice president, is assisting me with Board duties, making sure I stay on target with parliamentary procedure and ensuring we have monthly presentations. Wendy Douglass ensures our newsletter goes out with information that helps each of us with our genealogical pursuits. Additionally, since we have no secretary, Judy and Wendy tag-team on taking minutes for board and membership meetings. Please don't let us lose great people by burning them out. Having input from everyone brings a new sense of momentum to any group. Each of us have a variety of talents and interests that can benefit the Society. Your willingness to participate makes the group more viable and active.

I have two small personal examples of how the Society assisted me with my family history. First, the books that Sharon Field & her committee so conscientiously obtain. She was able to find two books that gave me more insight into Chickasaw County, Iowa. The books gave information regarding my ancestors who farmed the area of Reilly Ridge, Chickasaw County, Iowa. I was so excited to read the books and got a shot in the arm to continue on. Second, I stumbled along Kenneth Reilly, my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin 2x removed, had relocated to Cheyenne from Chicago. Without the resource of our Society I would not have learned his wife, Marjorie was CGS president for 1971-1972. I was directed to the Society memory albums that give the history of our society. I went in and reviewed the albums with the intent of educating myself to the Society's history. Come to find out I found a picture of Marjorie and the meeting agendas she chaired. I would not have this information if we did not have our Society. I hope this request will urge members to come ahead and volunteer their time and expertise. I implore you to not let our Society go by the wayside due to lack of membership participation. *Kris*

### Upcoming Events:

11 Jan 2022  
CGHS Monthly Meeting & Program  
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society  
6:15-8:00 p.m.,  
"Japanese Immigrants in Wyoming"—Dan Lyon,  
Cheyenne Author & Society Member—In-Person LCL  
Windflower Room & Zoom

4 Jan 2022  
"Attaching Sources to FamilySearch Family Tree" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

6 Jan 2022  
"Exploring Post-1850 U.S. Federal Census Records" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

10 Jan 2022  
"Using the FamilySearch Catalog" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

11 Jan 2022  
"Merging Duplicate Individuals in FamilySearch Family Tree" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

18 Jan 2022  
"Correcting Relationships in FamilySearch Family Tree" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

20 Jan 2022  
"Research in Canada: An Introduction" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

25 Jan 2022  
"Adding Memories to FamilySearch Family Tree" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

1 Feb 2022  
"Using the FamilySearch Mobile Apps" 10 a.m.  
[Family History Library Webinar](#)



**Merry Christmas, Happy  
Holidays, Happy Hannukah  
& a Joyous New Year from  
your CGHS Board!**

## RootsTech 2022 Featuring Virtual Expo Hall Announces Open Registration: Online & Free

FamilySearch announces open registration for RootsTech 2022, the largest family history event in the world to be held online March 3-5, 2022. It offers a forum where people of all ages across the globe are inspired to discover and share their memories and make meaningful connections.

Register for free at [www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org) today. Roots-Tech 2022 will be a virtual-only experience, with some enhancements and improvements. A new set of educational classes will be featured during 2022, along with new technologies to explore in the virtual expo hall, and inspiring stories shared by a fascinating line-up of keynote speakers.

"RootsTech 2022 is sure to be an incredible experience once again" said Jen Allen, event director for RootsTech. "Earlier this year, we organized our first-ever virtual event amid a pandemic—something we never thought would happen. But as we watched the participants come together to provide joyful learning experiences in many different languages, we knew something special was taking shape."

Classes for the event will have a mix of on-demand, livestream, and interactive sessions that will allow attendees to learn, grow and connect to people all over the globe. Participants will also be able to connect with fellow attendees, speakers, experts and enthusiasts. In 2022, the planners of RootsTech are looking to take that experience to the next level. RootsTech is a place of connection.

"We witnessed incredible connections [in 2021] between participants all over the world," said Steve Rockwood, CEO of FamilySearch. "As they connected to their homelands and ultimately to their families, they then connected to each other. At FamilySearch, we choose connection, and we witness every day the ways family history transcends all walls of separation and unites us as the true story of humanity unfolds." While there will always be some differences between the in-person and online experiences, RootsTech will

continue to expand its online experience while working towards a time when the hybrid model of both can once again be offered.

"We are busy creating innovative ways to capture and share messages of culture, unity and connection that push the boundaries of what a virtual conference can be. We can't wait to share what we've got in store," added Allen.

"One of the most important things we've learned is that celebrating families knows no limitations. From the newest newbie to the most advanced family historian, there's a place at RootsTech for everyone who's interested in discovering their roots."

At RootsTech, learning is priority number-one. Choose from over 300 classes & breakout sessions taught by industry experts, professional genealogists, and experienced storytellers. Learn about the tools, resources and methods available to uncover and share your family's story, and the Expo Hall will feature more than



200 companies offering products and services designed to help people discover and connect. Attendees will be inspired and uplifted by an all-star lineup of speakers including past RootsTech keynote speakers: LeVar Burton, The Property Brothers, Emmitt Smith, Scott Hamilton, Buddy "Cake Boss" Valastro and Leigh Anne Tuohy. The conference is free and open to anyone. For updates, be sure to follow RootsTech on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and *print out a list of your interests.*

### The Genealogist Releases More Than 60,200 Select U.K. Records

The latest release from [TheGenealogist](http://TheGenealogist) features 60,290 new owner and occupier records being added to their unique Lloyd George Domesday Survey record set. The IR58 Inland Revenue Valuation Office records reveal to family historians all sorts of details about their ancestors' home, land, outbuildings and property owned or occupied in Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate, United Kingdom, at the time of the survey in the 1910s. These property tax records, taken at a time when the government was seeking to raise funds for the introduction of social welfare programs, introduced revolutionary taxes on the lands and incomes of Britain's population. To carry out this policy the government used surveyors to catalogue a description of each property in a street and also to plot its location on large-scale OS maps. Using the IR58 records from The National Archives, these valuable records can now be searched using the

Master Search at [TheGenealogist](http://TheGenealogist) or by clicking on the pins displayed on [TheGenealogist's](http://TheGenealogist) powerful Map Explorer™. The ability to switch between georeferenced modern and historic maps means that the family historian can see how the landscape where their ancestors had lived or worked may have changed over time. This online 1910s property records resource is unique to [TheGenealogist](http://TheGenealogist) and enables the researcher to thoroughly investigate a place in which an ancestor had lived in the 1910s notwithstanding that the streets may have undergone unrecognizable change in the intervening years. See their page about the Lloyd George Domesday Survey here: <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/lloyd-george-domesday/>

*TheGenealogist is one of the leading providers of online family history records in the UK. Along with the standard birth, marriage, death and census records, they also have significant collections of parish, PCC will records, Irish records, military records, occupations, & newspaper record collections amongst many others.*



## The Archive Lady Shares Tips on How to Preserve & Organize Years' Worth of Christmas Cards

This article is used with permission from Melissa Barker, The Archive Lady. She graciously shared this article with tips on how to preserve and organize many years' worth of Christmas cards from family members. She invites you to visit her blog at <http://agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.com/> or email her at [melissabarker20@hotmail.com](mailto:melissabarker20@hotmail.com)

Melissa writes that Sharon in Mississippi asks: "As I prepare to send out my Christmas cards this year, I am reminded of the box of old Christmas cards I found in my grandmother's things; she kept everything. Some of these cards date back to the 1930s and have some great artwork on them. They also have messages written in them from family, friends and neighbors. I can't bring myself to throw them away, so what is the best way to preserve them so that they are not just in a box in the closet?"



Box of Christmas keepsakes and cards.

Sharon's question is one that I suspect all genealogists wrestle with about this time of year, each and every year. Should we keep those Christmas cards we receive from friends, family and neighbors or do we just throw them away? Add to that, Sharon's predicament of having inherited a box of old Christmas cards from her grandmother.

The first Christmas card was commissioned by Sir Henry Cole and illustrated by John Callcott Horsley in London on May 1, 1843. Since that time, people across the globe have been sending and receiving Christmas cards as part of the Christmas season. This tradition of sending cards has always been a way of communicating with family and friends. Many people write

messages in their cards or send photographs.

I have a confession to make: I have kept every Christmas card that I have ever received. To some this may seem extreme, but for me I feel like I am saving my family's history. I have cards from family members that have passed on and this is the only record I have of their handwriting or signature. These cards are very precious to me.

Before the preservation process can take place, it is important to document each card by digitizing them. Digitizing Christmas cards can be very tedious and time consuming. However, if you want to ensure that these records are preserved in case of a disaster that destroys the cards, this is what needs to be done. If you don't want to keep the cards, but want to document the information in them, digitizing them can accomplish this goal.

—Scan the entire card; the front, inside and back. Place the scans in a computer file of the ancestor who sent the card in a separate folder entitled "Greeting Cards." Also, scan the envelope in which the card was mailed, if you have it.

—Take a soft #2 pencil and on the back of the card write the year it was received. Hopefully, the card's subject will tell what the occasion was; if not, you might want to make a note of the occasion.

—Consider placing a note in your family genealogy software that says something like "Christmas 2016, received Christmas card from Aunt Marie, she signed the card." If the person wrote a message in the card, you might want to transcribe that into the notes field as well. Also,



Bateman family Christmas card, ca. 1930s, Houston County, TN. Archives.



Example of one of the first Christmas cards from 1843.

record the sender's mailing address from the envelope.

Preserving Christmas cards or any greeting card is very easy. It's really a matter of obtaining the right materials and being consistent in the archiving process.

### Archival Materials You Will Need

These items can be purchased at any online archival materials store:

—Archival plastic sleeves in the size that fits the greeting card.

—Archival Box, like this one from [Gaylord Archival](http://GaylordArchival.com).



Take the greeting card and put it in an archival plastic sleeve that is the right size for the card. The archival supply stores have all kinds of sizes to choose from. Next, put the cards in a Hollinger box. I normally organize the greeting cards by surname and then within that surname I put the cards in date order by year. If you have a lot of greeting cards, like I do, you might want to dedicate a Hollinger box to one surname.

The process is quite simple and gets the greeting cards in order so they can be enjoyed. This also helps when you are looking for a certain card sent by a particular family member, they are easy to find. Don't let those Christmas cards overwhelm you! Organize them and preserve them so that they can be enjoyed by all.

## Origins of 'Father Christmas,' a Bearded Bishop, Trace Back to Western Christian Culture

Information in this article is from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia—[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa\\_Claus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus)

**Santa Claus**, also known as **Father Christmas**, **Saint Nicholas**, **Saint Nick**, **Kris Kringle**, or simply **Santa**, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts on Christmas Eve of toys and candy to well-behaved children and either coal or nothing to naughty children. He is said to accomplish this with the aid of Christmas elves, who make the toys in his workshop at the North Pole, and flying reindeer who pull his sleigh through the air. The modern character of Santa is based on traditions surrounding the historical [Saint Nicholas](#), the English figure of [Father Christmas](#) and the Dutch figure of [Sinterklaas](#).

Santa is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man, often with spectacles, wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs,



A 13th Century depiction of Saint Nicholas from Saint Catherine's Monastery, Sinai.

white-fur-cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur, and black leather belt and boots, carrying a bag full of gifts for children. He is commonly portrayed as laughing in a way that sounds like "ho ho ho." This image became

popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem "[A Visit from St. Nicholas](#)," Caricaturist and political cartoonist [Thomas Nast](#) also played a role in the creation of Santa's image. This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, chil-

dren's books, family Christmas traditions, films, and advertising.

### Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas was a 4th-century Greek Christian bishop of Myrna (now [Demre](#)) in the region of [Lycia](#) in the [Roman Empire](#), today in Turkey. Nicholas was famous for his generous gifts to the poor, in particular presenting the three impoverished daughters of a pious Christian with dowries so that they would not have to become prostitutes. He was very religious from an early age and devoted his life entirely to Christianity. In continental Europe (more precisely the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany) he is usually portrayed as a bearded bishop in canonical robes.

In 1087, while the Greek Christian inhabitants of Myra were subjugated by the newly arrived Muslim Seljuq dynasty, and soon after their Greek Orthodox church had been declared to be in schism by the Catholic church (1054 AD), a group of merchants from the Italian city of Bari removed the major bones of Nicholas's skeleton from his sarcophagus in the Greek church in Myra. Over the objection of the monks of Myra the sailors took the bones of St. Nicholas to Bari, where they are now enshrined in the [Basilica di San Nicola](#). Sailors from Bari collected just half of Nicholas' skeleton, leaving all the minor fragments in the church sarcophagus. These were later taken by Venetian sailors during the [First Crusade](#) and placed in Venice, where a church to St. Nicholas, the patron of sailors, was built on the [San Nicolò al Lido](#). St. Nicholas' vandalized sarcophagus can still be seen in the [St. Nicholas Church](#) in Myra. This tradition was confirmed in two important scientific investigations of the relics in Bari and Venice, which revealed that the relics in the two Italian cities belong to the same skeleton. Saint Nicholas was later claimed as a patron saint of many diverse groups, from archers, sailors, and children to pawnbrokers.

He is also the patron saint of both Amsterdam and Moscow.

During the Middle Ages, often on the evening before his name day of 6 December, children were bestowed gifts in his honor. This date was earlier than the original day of gifts for the children, which moved in the course of the Reformation and its opposition to the veneration of saints in many countries on 24 and 25 December. The custom of gifting to children at Christmas has been propagated by Martin Luther as an alternative to the previous very popular gift custom on St. Nicholas, to focus the interest of the children to Christ instead of the veneration of saints. Martin Luther first suggested the [Christkind](#) as the bringer of gifts, but Nicholas remained popular as gifts-bearer for the people.

### Father Christmas

Father Christmas dates back as far as 16th century in England during the reign of Henry VIII, when he was pictured as a large man in green or scarlet robes lined with fur. He typified the spirit of good cheer at Christmas, bringing peace, joy, good food and wine and revelry. As England no longer kept the feast day of Saint Nicholas on 6 December, the Father Christmas celebration was moved to 25 December to coincide with Christmas Day. The Victorian revival of Christmas included Father Christmas as the emblem of good cheer. His physical appearance was variable, with one famous image being John Leech's illustration of the "[Ghost of Christmas Present](#)" in Charles Dickens's festive classic *A Christmas Carol* (1843), as a great genial man in a green coat lined with fur who takes Scrooge through the bustling streets of London on the current Christmas Morning, sprinkling the essence of Christmas onto the happy populace.

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## Santa Claus Evolved from Odin, the Cloaked, Long-Bearded Giftbringer on a Horse



*Sinterklaas (Netherlands) on his horse called Amerigo.*

### Dutch, Belgian & Swiss Folklore

In the Netherlands and Belgium, the character of Santa Claus competes with that of [Sinterklaas](#), based on Saint Nicolas. Santa Claus is known as *de Kerstman* in Dutch ("the Christmas man") and *Père Noël* ("Father Christmas") in French. For children in the Netherlands, Sinterklaas remains the predominant gift-giver in December; 36% of the Dutch only give presents on Sinterklaas evening or the day itself, 6 December, while Christmas, 25 December, is used by another 21% to give presents. Some 26% of the Dutch population gives presents on both days. In Belgium, presents are offered exclusively to children on 6 December, and on Christmas Day all ages may receive presents. Saint Nicolas/Sinterklaas' assistants are called "[Zwarte Pieten](#)" (in Dutch) or "[Père Fouettard](#)" (in French), so they are not elves. In Switzerland, *Père Fouettard* accompanies *Père Noël* in the French speaking region, while the sinister *Schmutzli* accompanies *Samichlaus* in the Swiss German region. *Schmutzli* carries a twig broom to spank any naughty children.

### Germanic Paganism & Christianization

Prior to Christianization, the Germanic peoples (including the English) celebrated a midwinter event called Yule (Old English *geola* or *giuli*). With the Christianization of Germanic Europe,

numerous traditions were absorbed from Yuletide celebrations into modern Christmas. During this period, supernatural and ghostly occurrences were said to increase in frequency, such as the [Wild Hunt](#), a ghostly procession through the sky. The leader of the Wild Hunt is frequently attested as the god [Odin](#) (Wodan), bearing (among many names) the names *Jólnir*, meaning "Yule figure," and *Langbarðr*, meaning "long-beard," in [Old Norse](#). Wodan's role during the Yuletide period has been theorized as having influenced concepts of St. Nicholas in a variety of facets, including his long white beard and his gray horse for nightly rides (compare Odin's horse [Sleipnir](#)) or his reindeer in North American tradition.

Folklorist Margaret Baker maintains that "the appearance of Santa Claus or Father Christmas, whose day is the 25th of December, owes much to Odin, the old blue-hooded, cloaked, white-bearded Giftbringer of the north, who rode the midwinter sky on his eight-footed steed Sleipnir, visiting his people with gifts. Odin, transformed into Father Christmas, then Santa Claus, prospered with [St. Nicholas](#) and the [Christchild](#), became a leading player on the Christmas stage."

In Finland, Santa Claus is called [Joulupukki](#) (direct translation 'Christmas Goat'). The flying reindeer could symbolize the use of [fly agaric](#) by [Sámi](#) shamans.

### Origins

Early representations of the Gift-giver from church history and folklore, notably St Nicholas, merged with the English character Father Christmas to create the mythical character known to the rest of the English-speaking world as "Santa Claus" (a phonetic derivation of "[Sinterklaas](#)" in Dutch).

In the English and later British colonies of North America, and later

in the United States, British and Dutch versions of the Gift-giver merged further. For example, in Washington Irving's *History of New York* (in 1809), Sinterklaas was Anglicized into "Santa Claus" (a name first used in the U.S. press in 1773) but lost his bishop's apparel, and was at first pictured as a thick-bellied Dutch sailor with a pipe in a green winter coat. Irving's book was a parody of the Dutch culture of New York, and much of this portrait is his joking invention. Irving's interpretation of Santa Claus was part of a broader movement to tone down the increasingly wild Christmas celebrations of the era, which included aggressive home invasions under the guise of wassailing, substantial premarital sex (leading to shotgun weddings in areas where the Puritans, waning in power and firmly opposed to Christmas, still held some influence) and public displays of sexual deviancy; the celebrations of the era were derided by both upper-class merchants and Christian purists alike.

### 19th Century

In 1821, the book *A New-Year's Present, to the little ones from five to twelve* was published in New York. It contained [Old Santeclaus with Much Delight](#), an anonymous poem describing Santeclaus on a reindeer sleigh, bringing rewards to children. Some modern ideas of Santa Claus seemingly became canon after the anonymous publication of the poem "[A Visit From St. Nicholas](#)" (better known today as "The Night Before Christmas") in the *Troy, New York Sentinel* on 23 December 1823; [Clement Clarke Moore](#) later claimed authorship, though some scholars argue that [Henry Livingston, Jr.](#) (who died nine years before Moore's claim) was the author. St. Nick is described as being "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf with a little round belly that shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly," in spite of which the "miniature sleigh" and

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*An 1886 depiction of the long-bearded Norse god Odin by Georg von Rosen.*

## American Authors Created Modern Depictions of Kris Kringle, Saint Nick, Santa Claus

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"tiny reindeer" still indicate that he is physically diminutive. The reindeer were also named: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder and Blixem (Dunder and Blixem came from the old Dutch words for thunder and lightning, which were later changed to the more German sounding Donner and Blitzen).

By 1845 "Kris Kringle" was a common variant of Santa in parts of the United States. A magazine article from 1853, describing American Christmas customs to British readers, refers to children hanging up their stockings on Christmas Eve for "a fabulous personage" whose name varies: in Pennsylvania he is usually called "Krishkinkle", but in New York he is "St. Nicholas" or "Santa Claus." The author quotes Moore's poem in its entirety, saying that its descriptions apply to Krishkinkle too. First artists to define Santa Claus's modern image was [Thomas Nast](#), an American cartoonist of the 19th century who immortalized Santa Claus with an illustration for the 3 January 1863 issue of *Harper's Weekly* in which Santa was dressed in an American flag, and had a puppet with the name "Jeff" written on it, reflecting its Civil War context. In



1881 illustration by Thomas Nast who, along with Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas," helped to create the modern image of Santa Claus.

this drawing, Santa is also in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. The story that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole may also have been a Nast creation. His Christmas image in *Harper's* issue dated 29 December 1866 was a collage of engravings titled *Santa Claus and His Works*, which included the caption "Santa Clausville, N.P." A color collection of Nast's pictures, published in 1869, had a poem also titled "Santa Claus and His Works" by George P. Webster, who wrote that Santa Claus's home was "near the North Pole, in the ice and snow." The tale had become well known by the 1870s. A boy from Colorado writing to the children's magazine *The Nursery* in late 1874 said, "If we did not live so very far from the North Pole, I should ask Santa Claus to bring me a donkey."

The idea of a wife for Santa Claus may have been the creation of American authors, beginning in the mid-19th century. In 1889, the poetess [Katharine Lee Bates](#) popularized Mrs. Claus in the poem "Goody Santa Claus on a Sleigh Ride."

"Is There a Santa Claus?" was the title of an editorial appearing in the 21 September 1897 edition of *The New York Sun*. The editorial, which included the famous reply "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," has become an indelible part of popular Christmas lore in the United States and Canada.

### 20th Century

L. Frank Baum's [The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus](#), a 1902 children's book, further popularized Santa Claus. Much of Santa Claus's mythos was not set in stone at the time, leaving Baum to give his "Neclaus" (Necile's Little One) a wide variety of immortal support, a home in the Laughing Valley of Hohaho, and ten reindeer—who could not fly, but leapt in enormous, flight-like bounds.

Claus's immortality was earned, much like his title ("Santa"), decided by a vote of those naturally immortal. This work also established Claus's motives: a happy childhood

among immortals. When Ak, Master Woodsman of the World, exposes him to the misery and poverty of children in the outside world, Santa strives to find a way to bring joy into the lives of all children, and eventually invents toys as a principal means. Santa later appears in [The Road to Oz](#) as an honored guest at Ozma's birthday party, stated to be famous and beloved enough for everyone to bow even before he is announced as "The Most Mighty and Loyal Friend of Children, His Supreme Highness - Santa Claus." Images of Santa Claus were further popularized through [Haddon Sundblom](#)'s depiction of him for The Coca-Cola Company's Christmas advertising in the 1930s. The popularity of the image spawned urban legends that Santa Claus was invented by The Coca-Cola Company or that Santa wears red and white because they are the colors used to promote the Coca-Cola brand. Coca-Cola's competitor Pepsi-Cola used similar Santa Claus paintings in its advertisements in the 1940s and 1950s. Historically, Coca-Cola was not the first soft drink company to use the modern image of Santa Claus in its advertising—[White Rock Beverages](#) had already used a red and white Santa to sell mineral water in 1915 and then in advertisements for its ginger ale in 1923. Earlier still, Santa Claus had appeared dressed in red and white and essentially in his current form on several covers of [Puck](#) magazine in the first few years of the 20th century.

The image of Santa Claus as a benevolent character became reinforced with its association with charity and philanthropy, particularly by organizations such as the Salvation Army. Volunteers dressed as Santa Claus typically became part of fundraising drives to aid needy families at Christmas time.



# Genealogy News You Can Use...

## Genealogy: Get to Know Two Kinds of Record Sources—Original & Derivative

This article was written by Tamie Dehler, Special to the Tribune-Star of Terre Haute & Wabash Valley, Indiana, on 11 Dec 2021. It originally ran in Sept 2018.

When working on the family history, one thing we have to do is evaluate each new source of information. A source refers to the provenance of a record—its place and time of origin. There are two kinds of record sources: original (or primary) and derivative (or secondary).

An original source is the first written record of an event. Being the first, it is not based on any previous record. Original source records are often made at or near the time of the event they are documenting and by someone who witnessed, participated in, or had direct knowledge of that event. Examples are birth, marriage and death records, and deeds and court records from the county books. Original sources are generally considered the most authoritative records when documenting your genealogy. However, the information in an original source may not meet that standard, due to the carelessness of the first person documenting the event. Here, the term "original" simply refers to "the form in which the information is found or was created not to its quality, reliability, or other characteristics," states genealogist Helen F.M. Leary.

Derivative sources are records made from previously existing records. They may take the form of hand copies and notes, translations, transcriptions, abstracts, extracts, indexes, summaries or lists derived from either original sources or from other derivative sources. Derivative sources are considered less authoritative be-

cause they are one or more steps removed from the original source and therefore subject to copying or transcription error.

The information from a derivative source must be carefully evaluated, asking yourself "who created this source and how reliable should he/she be considered?" Derivative sources created by professional genealogists or organizations, government entities, or private companies, while they do carry the risk of a copying or transcription error, can still be reliable and true to the original source. An example of a derivative source is the online Illinois death records database. This list of names and basic death information was created from the original death records. Although done with care, this database was subject to human error and mistakes when being compiled.

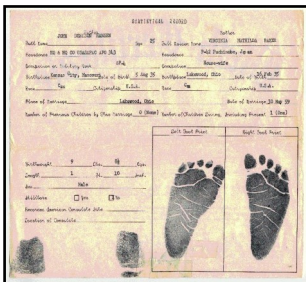
Each record you uncover in your research, whether its source is original or derivative, contains either primary or secondary information. Primary information consists of details provided at the time of the event by someone who had direct and immediate knowledge of that event. An example is the date, place and cause of death on a person's death record, provided by the doctor at the time of the death. Secondary information, in contrast, is more like "hearsay evidence." It is information recorded some time after the original event occurred, and it comes from someone with only secondhand knowledge of the event. In the death record example, secondary information includes the person's date and place of birth and the parents' names. This information was most likely supplied by a family member who did not have firsthand knowledge of these events, but learned them through other sources. This secondary information may be correct, but is subject to human memory and misinformation so it must be evaluated in that light. So in summary, a death record is an original source record because it is the first instance of that event being recorded. But it contains a mixture of primary and secondary infor-

mation, and these should be evaluated differently as to their reliability. In the case of secondary information on the death record, it is advisable to look for an original source, like a birth record or an entry in a family bible, to verify the secondary information listed. If those are not available, derivative sources that mention the person's birth and parents, like an obituary, are helpful, but less authoritative. Evaluate all of your sources and information and compare to see if they agree with each other or differ. In this way, you will get closer and closer to an accurate and verifiable proof statement.

### "ReClaim The Records" Offers Free Online New Jersey Birth Indexes for 1901-1929

Reclaim the Records announced the first-ever online publication of the New Jersey Geographic Birth Index and the New Jersey delayed birth index, 1901-1929, including 1.76 million records free for public use at Internet Archive. These records are currently only available in image format as they were scanned from 94 reels of microfilm and have not yet had a text transcription project to turn their contents into a searchable database. However, the majority of both record sets were typed, and users should be able to use the Internet Archive's built-in OCR capabilities to do a text-search of most of the images. *Click the little magnifying glass on the far-left side of each item to do a "Search Inside."*

The New Jersey Geographic Birth Index, 1901-1929 is the first-ever online publication of a twentieth century birth index from the Garden State, except for that time a few years ago when they put up the 1901-1903 birth index. But this time around, this is the **geographic** birth index, which means that it's a list of births that have been separated by county of birth, and sometimes by a major city within the county, and it's not just a purely alphabetical list. For the full announcement go to <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/29/>.



## Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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82003-2539

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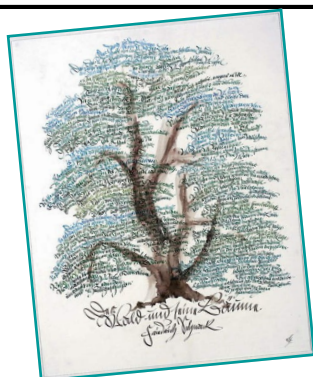
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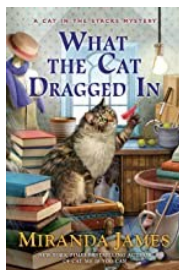
The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society welcomes this new member who recently joined the society: Valerie O'Neill & returning member Pauline Sawyer.

*CGHS continues to wish all its members healthy, productive genealogical research adventures and we encourage all members to pay their CGHS dues, participate in our programs and invite new members to join us!*



## "Check This Out"

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



### What The Cat Dragged In

By Miranda James (c. 2021; 304 pages; Berkley Prime  
Crime Publishing/Penguin Random House LLC; New  
York—fiction)

Librarian Charlie Harris is surprised to learn he has inherited his grandfather's farm and home because the family thought it had been sold many years before. He always believed that his grandfather had sold his house to his longtime tenant, Martin Hale. So when Martin dies, Charlie is surprised to discover the house was not left to Martin but instead belongs to Charlie. As he and his feline companion, Diesel, check out the house he remembers fondly from his childhood, he is pleasantly surprised that it is in better condition than expected. That is, until they find a literal skeleton in the attic. After the murder of the tenant's son, Charlie begins digging through resources and talking to older members of the community to learn history about his family that he had never been told. In this book #14 of 15 Cat in the Stacks Mystery series, Charlie Harris is the character who works as a cataloguer in a college library and as a volunteer in the local library. Because his family has been in the area for a long time he is acquainted with many of the locals, particularly the older folks and uses the resources available to him and the local memories to solve mysteries. *This story in particular has lots of twists in the family line so I thought it might be of interest to other genealogists.* —Kay Barnes

**Other titles in the series:** Cat Me If You Can (2020); Careless Whiskers (2020); The Pawful Truth (2019); Claws For Concern (2018); Six Cats A Slayin' (2018); Twelve Angry Librarians (2017); No Cats Allowed (2016); Arsenic and Old Books (2015); The Silence of the Library (2014); Out of Circulation (2013); File M for Murder (2012); Classified as Murder (2011); Murder Past Due (2011).

### A Note From Our Webmaster:

Domain registrar GoDaddy has shared details of a serious security breach that saw the details of 1.2 million customers exposed. In a disclosure to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, GoDaddy's Chief Information Security Officer shared details of the hack. Suspicious activity was discovered on Nov. 17 in the company's Managed WordPress hosting environment, which turned out to be a third-party using a compromised password to gain access. Up to 1.2 million active and inactive Managed WordPress customers had their email addresses and customer numbers exposed. The third-party also gained access to the WordPress Admin password for these accounts, as well as the sFTP database username and password for active customers. GoDaddy is investigating the hack with the help of an IT forensics firm and law enforcement has been involved. The passwords for the WordPress accounts and database access have already been reset and new SSL certificates are being issued to affected customers. This is the domain registration site for our website. Although we don't use WordPress services through them, we may get emails or postal mail pieces from people selling authoritative-looking services for our group. These may include directory listing services, search optimization services, virus protection services, or other things relating to our website. We don't need any of those services, so please let me know, just so we can keep tabs on them, but do not authorize anything like that for any payment....Otis Halverson