

Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Message from the CGHS President...

"Dang, it is cold outside!" I was thinking as I got out of bed this morning. I believe I may be the queen of reminiscence, but, this little thought got me thinking about the times and events in my life that I think about when I consider 'A perfect day!' The 'perfect day' never seemed to revolve around extensive planning and expense to participate in a greatly anticipated activity or attend some spectacular event. No, I must confess that my 'perfect day' usually began early on a cold morning when I would hear the announcement on the radio: "All roads in and out of Cheyenne are closed, and we recommend no unnecessary travel." This would be followed by a list of school and business closed, and activities canceled for the day. I can still feel my response to such delightful news as a smile would spread across my face. I would anticipate a day at home with my entire family safe around. It would become a day with soup boiling on the stove, maybe cinnamon rolls, or warm chocolate chip cookies. Out would come the games and many cold-blooded battles would ensue over Park Place and Reading Railroad as rent would be heartlessly demanded. Various marble and domino games would occupy the younger set. Later in the afternoon or early evening it would be popcorn with melted cheese as we would watch movies - anticipating our favorite lines and scenes: "Anne of Green Gables," "The Princess Bride," "Seven Wives for Seven Brothers," "Pollyanna," and of course, "Pride and Prejudice," were our top five... (...hum... maybe they were just my top five, as I failed to mention, "Star Wars.") I



looked forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, as holidays were the same - everything was closed and we all just stayed home and played, cooked and visited with each other, safe and warm - 'a perfect day!' In this holiday season I wish for all of you a few quiet moments to play and cook and spend some time being with those you love, safe and warm - 'a perfect day!'

Gloria Milmont, President

"The Internet Archive" Features Free Genealogy Books

This article is reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 13 Dec 2016, <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/12/13/free-genealogy-books-on-the-internet-archive/>

When I started researching my family tree more than 30 years ago, I purchased a paper reprint of a genealogy book first published in 1920 for \$100. Today I found the same book online and the cost was **ZERO**. I can download the entire book to my hard drive or to a jump drive or save it to an online storage service. I can print one page, multiple pages, or even the entire book. Even better, I can electronically search the entire book within seconds for any word or phrase. Not only can I search for names, but I can also search for towns, dates, occu-

pations, or any other words of interest. Try doing that with a printed book! The Internet Archive, also known as "The Wayback Machine," is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering free permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. The Internet Archive is well known for storing terabytes of old web pages. However, the organization has also expanded its role to digitize and store all sorts of public domain material, including old books, movies, audio recordings, radio shows, and more. I have also found a few modern books there that were

legally contributed by the copyright holders themselves. The site's Text Archive contains a wide range of fiction, popular books, children's books, historical texts and academic books. The list includes genealogy books as well. The Internet Archive isn't perfect, but it does provide a great resource for genealogists, historians, and others. Everything on The Internet Archive is free. As a non-profit, however, the organization does accept donations which are tax-free to Americans. Check out The Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org>. You can read about The Internet Archive's genealogy collection at <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>.

Upcoming Events:

10 January 2017
"Adding Photos & Stories to FamilySearch Family-Trees"

Melanie Bosselman,
CGHS Monthly Meeting
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Sunflower Room
Laramie County Library

12 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "Tracing Non-Church of England Ancestry"
1:00 p.m.

17 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "Exploring Probate Records in Norway"
2:00 p.m.

18 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "German Historical Geography"
1:00 p.m.

24 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "Tips & Tricks for Using FamilySearch's Historical Records"
1:00 p.m.

31 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "U.S. Mountain States Research"
11:00 a.m.

31 January 2017
[Family History Library Webinar](#): "Marriage Laws & Customs in Germany"
1:00 p.m.

8-11 February 2017
[RootsTech Conference](#)
Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City
(Registration required)

Newsletter Note: Hyperlinks (in blue) in this newsletter are all live and can be activated by holding down your "control" key and clicking on the typed link—the site should open momentarily.

A glimpse back at the past...

50 million or more people worldwide died of 1918 flu pandemic

Information in this article is from the U.S. National Archives and Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1918flu_pandemic

True or false? The influenza epidemic of 1918 killed more people than died in World War I.

Hard as it is to believe, the answer is true. World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 infected 500 million people across the world, including remote Pacific islands and the Arctic, and resulted in the deaths of 50 to 100 million (three to five percent of the world's population), making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history. One fifth of the world's population was attacked by this deadly virus. Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history.

The plague emerged in two phases. In late spring of 1918, the first phase, known as the "three-day fever," appeared without warning. Few deaths were reported. Victims recovered after a few days. When the disease surfaced again that fall, it was far more severe. Scientists, doctors, and health officials could not identify this disease which was striking so fast and so viciously, eluding treatment and defying control. Some victims died within hours of their first symptoms. Others succumbed after a few days; their lungs filled with fluid and they suffocated to death.

The plague did not discriminate. It was rampant in urban and rural areas, from the densely populated East coast to the remotest parts of Alaska. Young adults, usually unaffected by these types of infectious diseases, were among the hardest hit groups along with the elderly and young children. The flu afflicted over 25 percent of the U.S. population. In one year, the average life expectancy in the United States dropped by 12 years.

Hypotheses about source

Investigative work by a British team led by virologist John Oxford of St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal London Hospital in 1999 identified the major troop staging and hospital camp in Etaples, France, as almost certainly being the center of the 1918 flu pandemic. A significant precursor virus, harbored in birds, mutated to pigs that were kept near the front. Earlier hypotheses of the epidemic's origin have varied. Some hypothesized the flu orig-



A street car conductor in Seattle in 1918 refusing to allow passengers aboard who are not wearing masks.

inated in East Asia. Dr. C. Hannoun, leading expert of the 1918 flu for the Institut Pasteur, asserted the former virus was likely to have come from China, mutating in the United States near Boston and spreading to Brest, France, Europe's battlefields, Europe, and the world using Allied soldiers and sailors as main spreaders. He considered several other hypotheses of origin, such as Spain, Kansas, and Brest, as being possible, but not likely. Historian Alfred W. Crosby speculated the flu originated in Kansas. Popular writer John Barry echoed Crosby in describing Haskell County, Kansas, as the likely point of origin. Political scientist Andrew Price-Smith published data from the Austrian archives suggesting the influenza had earlier origins, beginning in Austria in the spring of 1917.

In 2014, historian Mark Humphries of Canada's Memorial University of Newfoundland stated that newly unearthed records confirmed that one of the side stories of the war, the mobilization of 96,000 Chinese laborers to work behind the British and French lines on World War I's western front, might have been the source of the pandemic. In the report, Humphries found archival evidence that a respiratory illness that struck northern China in November 1917 was identified a year later by Chinese health officials as identical to the Spanish flu. However, a

report published in 2016 in the Journal of the Chinese Medical Association found no evidence that the 1918 virus was imported to Europe from Chinese and Southeast Asian soldiers and workers. In fact, it found evidence that the virus had been circulating in the European armies for months and potentially years before the 1918 pandemic.

Spread

When an infected person sneezes or coughs, more than half a million virus particles can be spread to those close by. The close quarters and massive troop movements of World War I hastened the pandemic, and probably both increased transmission and augmented mutation; the war may also have increased the lethality of the virus. Some speculate the soldiers' immune systems were weakened by malnourishment, as well as the stresses of combat and chemical attacks, increasing their susceptibility.

A large factor in the worldwide occurrence of this flu was increased travel. Modern transportation systems made it easier for soldiers, sailors, and civilian travelers to spread the disease. In the U.S., the disease was first observed in Haskell County, Kansas, in January 1918, prompting local doctor Loring Miner to warn the U.S. Public Health Service's academic journal. On 4 March 1918, company cook Albert Gitchell reported sick at Fort Riley, Kansas. By noon on 11 March 1918, over 100 soldiers were in the hospital. Within days, 522 men at the camp had reported sick. By 11 March 1918, the virus had reached Queens, New York. Failure to take preventative measures in March/April was later criticized. In August 1918, a more virulent strain appeared simultaneously in Brest, France; Freetown, Sierra Leone; and Boston, Massachusetts.

(Continued on page 3)



New York City typist wearing a mask, as protection against the Spanish flu, 1918.

Genealogy News You Can Use...

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Will Furnish Markers or Headstones for Deceased Eligible Veterans By Request

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone. Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed. When

burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative. Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery. Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense. VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, must be submitted to request a memorial marker. (Reprinted from the August, 2016 *Natrona County Genealogical Society Newsletter*, "Our Ancestors.")

Ben Franklin's World: Internet Podcast Explores Early American History of Genealogy

[Ben Franklin's World](#) is an internet podcast site about early American history. It features shows for people who love history and for those who want to know more about the historical people and events that have impacted and shaped our present-day world. Each episode features a conversation with a historian who helps shed light on important people and events in early American history. In [Episode 114](#), Karin Wulf, a Professor of History at the College of William & Mary and the Director of the [Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture](#), guides listeners through the history of genealogy and what knowing that history reveals about our early American past. During the exploration, Karin reveals why early Americans were interested in genealogy and how they practiced it; early American and European institutions that encouraged early Americans' interest in family history; the role Protestant religion played in early Americans' interest in genealogy; early Americans' use of oral family histories; and, why it's important for both historians and genealogists to understand the history of genealogy. (Note: Episode 110 features Joshua Taylor, President of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, on ["How Genealogists Research."](#))

RootsMagic Explains Why Its Promised Ancestry Sync Won't Happen This Year...but "When It's Ready"

Ever since RootsMagic announced back in February 2016 that it was collaborating with Ancestry on a version of software that would be able to sync with Ancestry trees and display WebHints from Ancestry, inquiring genealogy minds have wanted to know, "how much longer?" An answer of sorts came in mid-December in an [open letter from RootsMagic head honcho Bruce Buzbee](#). Although initially, "by the end of the year" seemed like a safe deadline, he writes that more time is needed to complete and properly test the new syncing feature. Bruce includes a good explanation of the behind-the-scenes technical challenges: The API, the "system that lets Ancestry and RootsMagic talk with each other," is brand new and needed lots of testing as well as additional functionality, which took time. His team also has needed to remove and replace code to improve how the software performs certain tasks. So the bottom line is, RootsMagic won't sync with Ancestry by Dec. 31. But "it is close, and it looks amazing. We just want to make sure that when we release these new features, you can depend on them working right and keeping your data safe," Bruce writes. "For everyone wanting to know the new exact release date, it will be done when it's ready."

1918 Flu Epidemic Described as World "Medical Holocaust"

(continued from page 2)

The Spanish Flu also spread through Ireland, carried there by returning Irish soldiers. The Allies of World War I came to call it the Spanish flu, primarily because the pandemic received greater press attention after it moved from France to Spain in November 1918. Spain was not involved in the war and had not imposed wartime censorship.

To maintain morale, wartime censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Germany, Britain, France, and the United States; but newspapers were free to report the epidemic's effects in neutral Spain (such as the grave illness of King Alfonso XIII), creating a false impression of Spain as especially hard hit—thus the pandemic's nickname **Spanish flu**. In Spain, a different nickname was adopted, the Naples Soldier (*Soldado de Nápoles*), which came from a musical operetta (zarzuela) titled *La canción del olvido* (*The Song of Forgetting*), which premiered in Madrid during the first epidemic wave. Federico Romero, one of the librettists, quipped that the play's most popular musical number, *Naples Soldier*, was as catchy as the flu.

Mortality

The global mortality rate from the 1918/1919 pandemic is not known, but an estimated 10% to 20% of those who were infected died. With about a third of the world population infected, this case-fatality ratio means 3% to 6% of the entire global population died. Influenza may have killed as many as 25 million people in its first 25 weeks. Older estimates say it killed 40–50 million people, while current estimates say 50–100 million people worldwide were killed. This pandemic has been described as "the greatest medical holocaust in history" and may have killed more people than the Black Death. It is said that this flu killed more people in 24 weeks than AIDS killed in 24 years, more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century. It is an oddity that the influenza epidemic of 1918 has been overlooked in the teaching of American history. Documentation of the disease is ample, as shown in records from the holdings of the National Archives. <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/>

**Cheyenne
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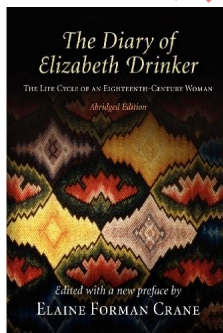
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The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society wishes all its
members a happy, healthy new
year full of great genealogical
discoveries!



"Check This Out"

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



The Diary of Elizabeth Drinker: The Life Cycle of an Eighteenth- Century Woman by Elaine Forman Crane

(c 2010; first published 1994 by Northeastern
University Press—Nonfiction)

The journal of Philadelphia Quaker Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker (1735-1807) is perhaps the single most significant personal record of eighteenth-century life in America from a woman's perspective. Drinker wrote in her diary nearly continuously between 1758 and 1807, from two years before her marriage to the night before her last illness. The extraordinary span and sustained quality of the journal make it a rewarding document for a multitude of historical purposes. One of the most prolific early American diarists—her journal runs to thirty-six manuscript volumes—Elizabeth Drinker saw English colonies evolve into the American nation while Drinker herself changed from a young unmarried woman into a wife, mother, and grandmother. Her journal entries touch on every contemporary subject political, personal, and familial. Focusing on different stages of Drinker's personal development within the domestic context, this abridged edition highlights four critical phases of her life cycle: youth and courtship, wife and mother, middle age in years of crisis, and grandmother and family elder. There is little that escaped Elizabeth Drinker's quill, and her diary is a delight not only for the information it contains but also for the way in which she conveys her world across the centuries.

—Amazon Book Review

Preserving Family Papers, Photographs, and Images

The North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board and the State Archives of North Carolina have partnered to produce several video tutorials on the preservation of family papers, photographs and digital images. These tutorials were made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and can be viewed on YouTube. Topics are:

- Identifying and Protecting Essential Family Records
- General Paper Preservation Tips
- Caring for and Sharing Family and Personal Papers
- The Care and Preservation of Family Photographs
- Managing and Preserving Digital Images

Find links to the tutorials at: [http://
ncarchives.wordpress.com/2014/08/08/the-
care-and-handling-of-family-papers-
photographs-and-essential-records/](http://ncarchives.wordpress.com/2014/08/08/the-care-and-handling-of-family-papers-photographs-and-essential-records/)

