

Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Musings by the President . . .

My New Year's Resolution: *I resolve to clean my office.*

I hope I can be finished in a year. I further resolve to put genealogy research on hold until I do. When I first designed my office back in 2006, I envisioned pristine counter tops. Those counter tops have not seen the light of day since they



were installed. They're covered with piles of genealogy documents waiting for me to enter their information into my family history database. I have birth, marriage and death records from Montana; probate and land records from Wisconsin and Ohio; military records from the Civil War; and newspaper clippings from Minnesota--to describe a few of the piles. I've been trying to do this all along, but I always get side-tracked looking up a fact or two which leads to more researching to round out what's in the document. This year I'm going to resist temptation.....so if you want me, I'll be in my office.

Sue Seniauski, President

RootsTech 2020 Whose Theme is "The Story of You," Will Happen Feb 26-29, 2020—Its 10-Year Anniversary

RootsTech 2020 is thrilled to announce that Emmitt Smith, the NFL's all-time leading rusher and Super Bowl champion, will be a keynote speaker at the event on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Emmitt Smith, the National Football League's all-time leading rusher and Super Bowl champion, broke Walter Payton's league rushing record and played for three Super Bowl-

winning Dallas Cowboys teams. He's the only running back to ever win a Super Bowl championship, the NFL MVP award, the NFL rushing crown, and the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award in the same season. Known for his durability, excellent vision, and extraordinary leg strength, Smith was one of the most electrifying players to ever play the game of

football. Today, Smith has transitioned to the role of businessman and entrepreneur and runs several companies spanning real estate, construction, and technology. With his wife, Smith founded the Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities to provide unique experiences and opportunities to underserved youth. The stories that he can share—both from his playing days and from his own knowledge of his family history—will be perfect for the RootsTech stage. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from one of the world's premier athletes!

Roots-Tech is a popular four-day annual family history and technology conference where individuals and families are inspired to discover, share, and preserve their family roots, heritage, and stories. The 2020 conference will be held February 26-29, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information, visit Roots-Tech.org. Last year, the event attracted

more than 15,000 attendees from all 50 U.S. states and 47 different countries. RootsTech 2020 will offer attendees a full lineup of inspiring and well-known keynote speakers; over 300 informative sessions, including hands-on computer lab classes taught by industry professionals; interactive activities and helpful exhibitors in the expo hall; and entertaining evening events—all designed to inspire and create discoveries. Promotional pricing is available for a limited time on four-day passes at just \$189. Single-day RootsTech passes are also available. Both one-day and full conference passes include access to the popular expo hall and keynote sessions.



Upcoming Events:

14 Jan 2020

"Caring for Genealogy Documents & Artifacts"
Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society Monthly Meeting, 6:45-8:30 p.m.,

21 Jan 2020

"Germans from Russia: Online Resource for Volga Germans" 11:30 a.m.
[Family History Library Webinar](#)

20 Feb 2020

"A Can of Worms—Researching Calamity Jane" 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Larimer County Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting, Good Samaritan Society, Fort Collins, CO.

26-29 Feb 2020

"RootsTech Conference" presented by Family Search, Salt Palace Convention Center Salt Lake City, Utah
(see article on the left)

FamilySearch Provides a Glimpse of New Features Coming in 2020

FamilySearch will expand its reach in 2020 by adding more languages and more social capabilities. Some key experiences such as the Family Tree and Memories will also have new and improved functionality.

More Languages

FamilySearch.org will have support for more languages early in 2020. The FamilySearch Family Tree, records search, Memories, and other essential site experiences will be made available in a number of additional languages including Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finish, Hungarian, Mongolian, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Swedish, Vietnamese and others.

Faster Access to New Records

FamilySearch will release a new tool for viewing recently digitized record images. This feature will help users more easily find images that aren't yet indexed (or text searchable), which gives quicker access to new records. FamilySearch has more than 300 cameras working to preserve records worldwide. With the upcoming Explore Images tool, new record images can be made viewable on the site in a matter of days or weeks, instead of going through months or years of processing.

Wanted: Volunteers for "Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague"

The newsletter column, "Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague," will be on hiatus until more volunteers offer their research for sharing. The column was created several issues ago whose purpose was to introduce readers to the genealogical work of members of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society, to help them get to know their colleagues, provide a few ideas or hints to help them in their own research, and maybe even discover a family connection in another person's research. If you would like to participate and share your research through a series of questions & answers, please notify the **Cheyenne Genealogy Journal** editor:

Wendywy04@aol.com with your name and contact information.

Editable Dates & Places in Indexes

In addition, dates and places in record indexes will soon be editable on FamilySearch.org. This feature is similar to an update in 2019 that allowed users to [edit the name fields](#) in indexed records.

Better Merging

In the new year, there will be significant improvements to [the merging experience](#) in the FamilyTree. The FamilySearch Family Tree is the world's largest shared tree. [FamilySearch's unified family tree](#) differs from the tree-building experience at most other websites. Instead of concentrating efforts on privately constructing their own individual trees, FamilySearch tree builders [cooperate](#) to build a single, shared tree that helps you and others discover more about ancestors and other family members. The shared tree strives to have just one public profile for every deceased person who has ever lived. The improved merging experience means that users can merge ancestor profiles ([person pages](#)) when they find duplicate profiles. This experience will be streamlined and enhanced.

Updates to Latest Changes and a New Contributions Tab

The Latest Changes log for person pages will be updated in 2020. Users will be able to see more details for what has been edited on each person page in their tree view.

Also, a new My Contributions tab is coming soon to the Family Tree app and desktop site. This feature will celebrate what you've added to the Family Tree, including source, memories, and persons added. It will also include an overview of changes you have made across the shared tree and a list of the private persons in your private space. (These are the profiles you have created for living persons, which are kept private. [Read more about private spaces in the Family Tree.](#))

Easier Ways to Find and Sort Memories and Improved "Likes"

A simple but powerful update to [Memories](#) will let you add topic tags to photos and documents uploaded to the FamilySearch site and apps. This change essentially allows you to categorize memories you add or have added to your ancestors' profiles. It will also improve searching within your ancestors' memories. Imagine that you want-

ed to find pictures of an ancestor's past Halloween costumes or holiday celebrations. With this tagging feature, that is much more possible.

The ability to "like" whole albums in FamilySearch Memories will also be available in the new year. Currently, FamilySearch users can "like" individual photos and other memories so they show up in the **My Likes** section of their [Memories gallery](#). Soon you will be able to do the same with photos you have [grouped into albums](#).

Going Social

In 2020, FamilySearch will add updates to help improve social interactions between users on the FamilySearch website. Family Tree users will also be able to share their ancestors' person pages on social media websites such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

Federation of Genealogical Societies & National Park Service Announce Launch of U.S.-Mexican War Soldier & Sailor Database

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the National Park Service's Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (NPS) recently announced the launch of the [U.S.-Mexican War Soldier & Sailor database](#). This online, searchable database contains information for over 85,000 U.S. and Mexican veterans who served in this war. Many records include personal details, such as hair color and occupation. The database allows descendants of these soldiers and sailors to connect to their personal history and helps Palo Alto commemorate and tell the stories of those who served.

This invaluable research tool benefits genealogists, historians, as well as people who may have never known they are related to a U.S.-Mexican War veteran. This project started in 2007. Progress was extremely slow until 2015, when FGS joined forces with the NPS. FGS offered their expertise and numerous volunteers. Patricia Rand, the FGS contact, recruited and trained volunteers who spent over 17,000 hours doing the tedious task of inputting data. Their dedication makes it possible for future generations to learn about those who served in the U.S.-Mexican War.

If You Have Quaker Ancestors, Here Are Some Ideas on How to Find Them Through Meeting Records

Quakerism in America was brought to Rhode Island in 1657 from Barbados and England. The earliest Quaker settlements were in New England, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. From these states Quakers migrated in the mid- to late-1700s to Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Then in the 1800s they spread into the Midwest, Oregon, California, and Canada. Quakerism was founded in 1647 by [George Fox](#), who also established a rich system of record keeping.

Quaker meetings were organized by geographic areas consisting mainly of Preparative Meetings (Particular Meetings), Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, and Yearly Meetings. Records of Monthly Meetings hold the most vital information for genealogists. They may contain a history of the meeting, lists of members, marriages, deaths, removals, and disownings. Quakers did not practice baptism.

In 1750 Quakerism was the third largest religion in the British colonies with about 250 monthly meetings. By 1775 it had slipped to fifth place with 320 meetings. There were several separations in Quakerism beginning with the [Hicksites](#) in 1828.

Clues a Person Was a Quaker

—Months of the year are recorded as numbers rather than by their names in an ancestor's record.

—Male ancestors do not appear in military records.

—Your ancestors lived in an area where there was a high concentration of Quakers.

To learn more about the Quakers you may want to view the following book: *Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987 by Ellen Thomas Berry and David Allen. Laramie County Library Special Collection book (call number GEN 929.102 BERRY). Also at Worldcat—free to view at books.google.com.

Identify Their Monthly Meeting

At the Laramie County Library you can search William Wade Hinshaw's *Index to Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, (call number GEN 289.673 HINS V.1-V.6). These reference books are an every name index to the first six volumes of Monthly Meetings compiled by William Wade Hinshaw. They index many, but not all Monthly Meetings.



George Fox, founder of Quakerism

The volumes contain information on the following states:

- Vol. 1: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee
- Vol. 2: Pennsylvania and New Jersey
- Vol. 3: New York City and Long Island
- Vols. 4-5: Southwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio and one meeting in Michigan
- Vol. 6: Virginia

For Quakers in Indiana, use the Laramie County Library book (GEN 289.6772 HEIS Pt.4), which contains vol. 7, *Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana*, compiled by William Wade Hinshaw and Willard C. Heiss. The collection is divided into an index and six parts. This collection also can be found digitally from the Family History Library available [here](#). For more information on searching Quaker records, visit the Family History Center wiki at [U.S. Quaker Research \(Society of Friends\)](#).

Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America Announces Its 2020 Spring Seminar at the Denver Public Library

The Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America 2020 Spring Seminar will be on March 13 and March 14 at Denver Public Library, Lower Level Conference Room. The featured speaker is Teresa Steinkamp McMillan, Certified Genealogist.

The schedule will be as follows:

Friday, March 13, 1-4 pm

—The Voyages of our German Ancestors and Research (presented by Teresa)

—Resources for German Genealogists within the Denver Public Library (presented by James Jeffrey).

The Friday afternoon program is free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 14, 9:30 am-4:15 pm

Teresa will present four programs:

—Boost your German Research: Understand Jurisdictions;

—He Took Her Name: Understanding German Form Names;

—Untangle the Web of German Websites; and

—Get with the Times: German Newspaper Research.

The materials fee for the Saturday seminar is \$35 per person.

The Book Fair will be open both days. Register for the Saturday seminar by Feb. 15 and your name will be entered into a drawing for lunch with the speaker. For more information, contact Yvonne Schaefer at kc3845@gmail.com or Jean West at jgopack@gmail.com.



Wyoming Researcher Searching for Individuals Who Were Involved With Ground Observer Corps in 1950s—Wants to Get in Touch

Wyoming historian Dave Marcum is researching the Cold War Ground Observer Corps and Casper Filter Center. He is seeking individuals who were part of the Ground Observer Corps and either worked in the Casper Filter Center or at observation stations around the state in the early to mid-1950s. If you are one of these persons and are willing to talk about your experiences, please contact Dave at forgottenhistoryresearchcenter@gmail.com.

Genealogy is Ripe for Scams... Beware of These Family History Hoaxes & Deceptions

Information in this article was written by Kimberly Powell, well-known genealogist, and author of *The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy*. It is from Thought.Com, shared from their website and used here for a non-commercial purpose to alert readers and others of ongoing and current scams related to family history. The most recent one that has come to the attention of our members relates to long-lost relatives and large estate promises gleaned through email addresses from Ancestry.com. Please read and continue to BEWARE of these types of hoaxes.

Unfortunately, even in the friendly field of family history the old adage "Buyer Beware" must hold true. While it's not a common occurrence, there are some people who while researching their family tree have found themselves the victim of a genealogy scam, defined by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as "a fraudulent or deceptive act or operation." Of course, the best defense against such hoaxes, scams and other deceptions is advance knowledge, so explore this list of well-known scams and hoaxes that all genealogy enthusiasts should be aware of. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is, so do your research before sending anyone money for anything.

The Phony Inheritance Scam

This genealogy scam trips up would-be heirs by appealing to their interest in family history. A letter or email informs you that an unclaimed inheritance connected to your family has been located. After they reel you in with dreams of a far-off rich relative, they relieve you of your money in the form of various "fees" which are supposedly necessary to settle the estate—an estate which never existed begin with. The infamous [Baker Hoax](#) is one such genealogy inheritance scam. Phony inheritance scams have been around for a long time, propagated by letters or newspaper advertisements searching for the "rightful heirs" of huge estates. While many of us might question the supposed "fees," many people have been taken in by such scams over the years. Estate frauds touched hundreds of thousands of families, and you may even uncover references to such fortune or estate claims in your family tree.

Your Family History Scam

Have you ever received a letter in the mail from a company who claims to have done extensive work around the world on the history of your surname? Perhaps they have produced a wonderful book on your family, something such as *The World Book of Powells* or *Powells Across*

America which traces the history of the Powell surname back to the 1500s? However these advertisements are worded, they all have one thing in common - they claim to be a "one-of-a-kind" book and usually also claim to only be available for a limited time. Sound too good to be true? It is.

These "family surname history" books are little more than glorified phone books. Usually, they will include some general information on tracing your family tree, a brief history of your surname (very generic and providing no insight on the history of your specific family) and a list of names taken from a variety of old phone directories. Real helpful, huh? Companies such as Halberts of Bath, OH have been prosecuted and shut down for just such fraud, but there are always new ones to take their place. Similar items to watch out for include family history and surname origin scrolls and plaques. These provide only a generic history or surname origin of some of the families that carry the surname in question, but nothing on your specific family. Basically, any company who suggests that a mass-produced item is part of a customer's individual family history is misrepresenting genealogy and family history and you should stay away.

Genealogists With Falsified Credentials

It is relatively easy for an amateur family historian to set up shop and charge money for tracing family trees. This is absolutely acceptable as long as the genealogist in question does not misrepresent their abilities or training. Just because a genealogist doesn't have professional certification doesn't mean they don't know what they are doing. Professional genealogists are not usually licensed by governments, but several professional genealogy organizations have instituted screening programs. However, there have unfortunately been cases where people have been easily misled by the inappropriate use of [credentials and/or postnominals](#) implying such



testing or special qualifications. There have even been cases when so-called genealogists have "faked" genealogical data to produce family histories for their clients. Before hiring a professional researcher, make sure that you do your research and know exactly what you are getting for your money. The names of professional genealogists, both certified and uncertified, can be obtained from professional associations, such as the Association of Professional Genealogists. See [Selecting a Professional Genealogist](#) for help with checking the qualifications of a potential researcher, making your needs known to them, things you should do to improve your results and understanding the costs involved.

Misleading Software and Services

There are a few genealogy software products and online services on the market which can be described as misleading with regard to what they actually provide. This isn't to say that they are fraudulent in the true sense of the word, but they are often charging you for something you could get on your own for free. Most of the worst have been put out of business by vigilant genealogists, but new ones do crop up from time to time. Unfortunately, some of the biggest offenders are websites that pay for high placement in search results on Google and other sites. Many also appear as "sponsored links" on reputable websites that support Google advertising, including Ancestry.com and About.com. This makes it appear the fraudulent site is being endorsed by the website on which it appears, although that is generally not the case. Therefore, before you provide anyone with credit card details or payment, check out the site and its claims to see what you can learn. There are a number of things you can do to [identify and protect yourself from online genealogy scams](#). Some may argue that such genealogical software and services do offer value because they do some of the work for you -- which is fine as long as they accurately represent their product. Before you purchase any genealogy product or service, take time to research their claims and look for some type of money-back guarantee.

Coat of Arms Confusion

There are many companies out there who will sell you your coat of arms on a t-shirt, mug, or "handsomely engraved" plaque. (Continued on page 5)

Genealogy News You Can Use...

"Creating Family Archives: A Step by Step Guide to Saving Your Memories"—Available for Order from Society of American Archivists

Got an attic overflowing with boxes of family photos and irreplaceable documents? A computer overloaded with files you don't want to lose and a phone with no more storage? The task of organizing and saving all these important things can seem overwhelming. That's why Margot Note wrote the book *Creating Family Archives: A Step-by-Step Guide to Saving Your Memories for Future Generations*, an easy-to-follow, step-by-step guide to organizing and preserving your family memories and documents. She'll walk you through how to handle your materials, the best supplies to buy, and ways to display and share your personal archives. Margot Note is an author and archivist with more than 20 years experience of managing information and consulting for national and international organizations. She knows that gathering up boxes of photos and years of video can be a daunting job for a family member or friend attempting to pull together their own family history. But her fascinating and instructional book will make it easier and, in the end, much better. It is written specifically for friends and family, taking them through the pro-



cess of arranging and preserving their own family archives. It's the first book of its kind offered to the public by the Society of American Archivists—and it is [available to order](#).

About the author: Margot Note is an archives consultant, a professor in the graduate women's history program at Sarah Lawrence College, an adjunct professor in the library & information science program at St. John's University; she holds a master's degree in library and information science and a post-master's in archives and records management from Drexel University.

Wyoming State Archives Selected by Ancestry.com for Digitization of Vital Records to be Online by October 2020

Robin Everett, CGHS member, and processing archivist with the Wyoming State Archives, has announced that the State Archives is working with Ancestry.com to scan a number of vital

Family History Scams

(Continued from page 4)

While these companies are not necessarily out to scam you, their sales pitch is very misleading and, in some cases, outright incorrect. Very few actually take the time to explain the facts to their potential customers. Except for a few individual exceptions from some parts of Eastern Europe, there is [no such thing as a "family" coat of arms for a particular surname](#)—despite the claims and implications of some companies to the contrary. Coats of arms are granted to **individuals**, not families or surnames.

records and create digitized images that will become online searchable records. The records being scanned at this time include the following:

- State Marriage and Divorce Records 1941-1969 (50-year records)
- State Birth Records 1909-1919 (100-year records)
- State Death Records 1909-1969 (50-year records)
- County Vital (Birth, Marriage, Death) Records - the beginning dates will vary by the county, however they also will follow the same end dates as the State records.

The current plan is to have them online by mid October 2020, which will coincide with both celebrations of Family History Month and Archives Month. Both Ancestry and the State Archives will be putting out alerts on their social media channels when these records are completed.

How Artificial Intelligence is Helping Identify Thousands of Unknown Civil War Soldiers

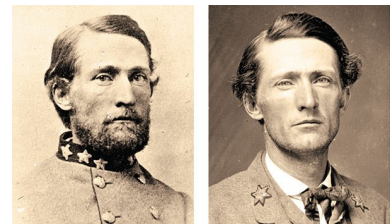
This article is from Dick [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) of 26 Dec 2019

Another great use of modern technology: David Morin in Exeter, N.H. owns a collection of more than 260 Civil War military pictures. Until now, many of the men in the photos remained a mystery to him — but in the course of the last year, he identified many of them by using **Civil War Photo Sleuth**, a website that uses facial recognition technology—a form of artificial intelligence (AI), to identify the men in such photos. Thanks to Morin's efforts, a new online website was created—[Civil War Photo Sleuth](#). The site uses facial recognition technology, a form of AI, to identify the men in such photos.

Read about how they created and tested the site and its ability to identify any of the three million soldiers who fought in the Civil War at <https://militaryimages.atavist.com/photo-sleuth-autumn-2019/>

In 2020 the Civil War Photo Sleuth site is planning to add a new feature (after the successful test)—a way for users to get second opinions on potential photo matches.

Best of all, **you** can upload any Civil War photos you have and this crowd-sourced website may be able to identify the person in the photo.



CASE STUDY: Searching the right photo of John S. Mosby as a Confederate major yielded 919 search results with the correct match; left, showing Mosby as a colonel, ranked No. 148. Applying the "Confederate" army and "Major" rank filters improved the position of the matching photo to No. 12. Images: Library of Congress.

You can read this story in an article by Olivia B. Waxman published in *Time* magazine at: <https://time.com/5749059/civil-war-photos/>

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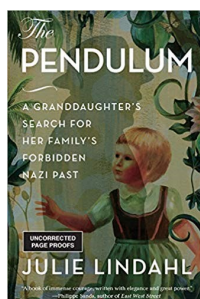
The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society welcomes
these new members who recently
joined the organization:

—Jack Walts
—Tacy West



"Check This Out"

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



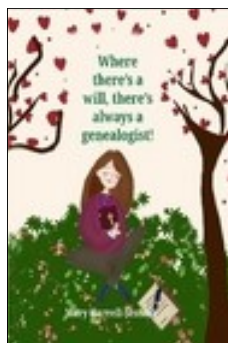
The Pendulum: A Granddaughter's Search for Her Family's Forbidden Nazi Past by Julie Lindahl (c 2019; 242 pages; Rowman & Littlefield, London—nonfiction)

This gripping memoir traces Brazilian-born American Julie Lindahl's journey to uncover her grandparents' roles in the Third Reich as she is driven to understand how and why they became members of Hitler's elite, the SS. Out of the unbearable heart of the story—the unclaimed guilt that devours a family through the generations—emerges an unflinching will to learn the truth. In a remarkable six-year journey through Germany, Poland, Paraguay and Brazil, Julie uncovers, among many other discoveries, that her grandfather had been a fanatic member of the SS since 1934. During World War II, he was responsible for enslavement and torture and was complicit in the murder of the local population on the large estates he oversaw in occupied Poland. He eventually fled to South America to evade a new wave of war-crimes trials. The pendulum used by Julie's grandmother to divine good from bad and true from false becomes a symbol for the elusiveness of truth and morality, but also for the false securities we cling to when we become unmoored. As Julie delves deeper into the abyss of her family's secret, discovering history anew, one precarious step at a time, the compassion of strangers is a growing force that transforms her world and the way that she sees her family—and herself.

—Book information and review from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Where There's A Will, There's Always A Genealogist!

by Mary Harrell-Sesniak (c 2019; 88 pages;
Self-Published; Florida)



Whether you are a serious or casual genealogist or looking for the perfect gift for a family historian, you'll enjoy blogger and genealogy columnist Mary Harrell-Sesniak's book ***Where There's a Will, There's Always a Genealogist!*** Inside you'll find a broad selection of historical genealogy humor alongside original quips and quotes. So take a break from your family history research and enjoy laughing at genealogy! Mary Harrell-Sesniak is a second generation genealogist and blogger with GenealogyBank.com at blog.genealogybank.com. She is also a former columnist *RootsWeb* Review, the oldest free genealogy newsletter and a former Ancestry.com supported publication. (Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))