

Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Message from the CGHS President...

I am not a joiner; the Genealogy Society is the only organization to which I belong. I have been doing genealogy research in one form or another since 1974, and I am a firm believer there is a need for this type of organization. Our society is a network of local genealogists, who are so willing to share their knowledge (all of you who volunteer in the Genealogy Room), passion (the Acquisitions Committee), and story (all of us on any given day at any given time). Through our monthly meetings, we provide instruction on basic skills and new twists (Finding Your Cousins) and prove the power of a family legend (Cari Taplin's presentation).

How many of us have been the person to avoid at family gatherings, as we handed out stacks of Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts, neatly folded in SASE envelopes? Now we have everything saved digitally (Gloria Milmont's presentation) and information that used to fill a shelf full of binders is now on a thumb drive. Instead of being part of a crowded microfilm reading room, where every so often a loud whispered "YES!" could be heard, we are able to share our newly found information with family members while raking up all of those 'leaves' in our pajamas. We have moved from the analog world of pencil and paper to digital cameras and book-size scanners. We have reaped the benefits of web groups such as Find-a-Grave, Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, GenWeb, Family Search, and Ancestry, to where we are now...and we know the need exists to pay it forward. Many of us have become contributors. So as we move forward while continuing to look back, thank all of you for all that you have done and continue to do to enhance genealogy research and make the Cheyenne Genealogical and Historical Society possible.

Robin Everett, President

Upcoming Events:

29-30 April 2016
Nebraska State
Genealogy Society
Annual Conference
Kearney Ramada Inn
Kearney, Nebraska
www.nsgs.org

4-7 May 2016
"Dive into Genetic
Genealogy"
National Genealogical
Society Conference
Ft. Lauderdale/Broward
County Convention Center
Florida (registration ends
22 Apr)
<http://conference.ngsgen.org>

10 May 2016
"Wyoming's Sheep In-
dustry: What Really
Happened," John Farr
5:30-9:00 p.m.
CGHS Annual Banquet
Phoenix Room
Cheyenne Radisson Hotel
204 W. Fox Farm Road,
Cheyenne

CGHS Banquet Speaker, John Farr Will Give Insights Into "Wyoming's Sheep Industry: What Really Happened?"

"Sheep probably paid for more ranches in Wyoming than did cattle, and though cattle and sheep wars in Wyoming happened—what we think we know is more the stuff of fiction than reality," according to John D. Farr, story teller, historian and sheep rancher. "Sheep provide a crop of wool every year and do not require the same large investment as cattle," he said. Farr is the guest speaker at the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society's annual banquet to be held at the Cheyenne Radisson Hotel, 204 W Fox Farm Road, on Tuesday, May 10. He says,

"from shepherds in the time of Christ to the Industrial Revolution, the sheep business has adapted and flourished ...and then retreated." Farr's family involvement and stories bring the "wooly business" to life. The CGHS annual dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Phoenix Room of the Radisson with check-in, a silent auction and dinner at 6 p.m. as a prelude to the program at 7 p.m. **Reservations, entrée selection (chicken or beef) and check for the dinner, which is \$17.00, must be postmarked by Monday.,**

**April 25, to
CGHS, P.O. Box
2539, Cheyenne,
WY 82003.**

Guests wishing to attend the program—only for \$5 may register at the door. Farr is a featured speaker with the Wyoming Humanities Council Roads Scholar Program. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Agricultural Economics & Natural Resources. He is a founder of the Ghost Town Club of Colorado, a now 55-year-old organiza-



tion, and he is active with many historical groups and museums across the west. Farr is past president of the Grand Encampment Museum and lives in a log cabin home in Encampment, Wyoming.

DNA, Genealogy and the Search For Who We Are

This article was written by and reprinted with permission from Alva Noë, a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, where he writes and teaches about perception, consciousness and art. He is the author of several books, including his latest, **Strange Tools: Art and Human Nature** (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2015). The original commentary was presented on [National Public Radio](#) on 29 Jan 2016, and was suggested as required reading for all genealogists by Dick Eastman in his Newsletter on 2 Feb 2016.

Consider these facts culled from writings at the University College London...

- You share no DNA with the vast majority of your ancestors.
- You have more ancestors — hundreds a few generations back, thousands in just a millennium — than you have sections of DNA.
- You have 64 great-great-great-great-grandparents — but if you are a man, you share your Y-chromosome with only one of them.
- The amount of DNA you pass on to your descendants roughly halves with each generation. It is a matter of chance which of your descendants actually carry any of your DNA.

And then, there's this tidbit, courtesy of Mark G. Thomas and his friends at University College London: It can be demonstrated that 5,000 years ago everybody alive was either the common ancestor of everyone alive today, or the common ancestor of no one. Thomas captures the startling upshot of this fact: "At this point in history we all share exactly the same set of ancestors." What can we learn from this? This is a question I hope to explore with you...

A couple of things seem reasonably clear. We care about family and we care about our family history. Millions of us watch Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s "Finding Your Roots" on PBS with fascination. And when Jimmy Kimmel or Shonda Rhimes weeps in the face of information



about the trials and accomplishments of great-great-great-grandparents, we get it. These stories matter. Here's something else that's pretty clear: These are potentially unsettling stories. I get why Ben Affleck didn't want to the world to know that he descended from slaveholders. He didn't want to know himself.

How would you feel to learn that one of your parent's parent's parents had done something really bad? How *should* you feel? But the really interesting upshot of the facts mentioned above seems to be that family and family history are one thing, and DNA-based ancestry is another. You just can't map these beautiful, defining, important family stories onto a DNA tree. The facts above seem to show that you literally *can't*. DNA draws the boundaries in the wrong place. According to some estimates, after all, as recently as 3,500 years ago a person lived who is the common genetic ancestor of everyone alive now.

This is salutary. As a culture, we like simple solutions. And the idea that who, and what, we really are is written in the language of the genome, that it is inside us—and that we need only send away to have it decoded—is almost irresistible. But to judge by the example of Gates' television show, the stories that matter, the ones that bring his guests and his viewers to tears, are sagas of marriage and migration, of childrearing, hard work and love. It is family that matters — and family

is relationship, not DNA. Family is not to be found inside us. The DNA story is a good one, and no doubt important for certain purposes, e.g., medical. But when what we want to know is *who we are*, it won't deliver the answers.

This, at least, is Thomas' view. He attacks the consumer DNA ancestry industry as peddling just-so stories and serving up "genetic astrology." For a detailed statement of his view, and a nice tutorial on genetics & ancestral analysis, [listen to this lecture](#) (on YouTube) that he delivered a year ago at the genealogy enthusiasts conference "Who Do You Think You Are Live" in Birmingham, England.

For more information on "Understanding Genetic Ancestry Testing" and "Debunking Genetic Astrology" visit the web site of the Molecular and Cultural Evolution Lab at the University College London—
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/mace-lab/debunking/understanding-testing>

Ancestry.com Removed "Family Group Sheets" from Public Trees Leaving No Alternative Option

Ted Bainbridge, a contributor to the *Journal* recently reported that a feature that has been in Ancestry.com for quite a while, has recently been removed from their site.

When looking at the information about a person in one of Ancestry's public trees, we used to click "Family Group Sheet View" to see the household described as we are used to seeing it. Then clicking on a parent showed that parent as a child in a different household, or clicking on a child showed that child as a parent in another household. We could use this feature to explore a tree backward and forward in time, across many generations and along many branches. This feature has been removed, and there is no work-around. This was confirmed to me by an email from Ancestry Support on 6 April 2016. There are no plans to restore this feature.

Genealogy News You Can Use...

Cheyenne Family History Center Offers Spring Classes

The Cheyenne Family History Stake Center is pleased to announce its lineup of spring classes. If you are interested in any of these classes, be sure to call to make a reservation due to limited space. All classes are free at the LDS Church, Family History Center, 309 Western Hills Blvd., Cheyenne. To register, call the FHC at 307-634-9536 or e-mail wy_cheyenne@ldsmail.net

-Tues, Apr 19, 10 a.m.-noon, **Find My Cousins**, Melanie Bosselman

-Thurs, Apr 21, 7-9 p.m., **Ancestry.com**, Cindy McCormick

-Wed, Apr 27, 7-9 p.m., **Family Tree: Merging Duplicates**, Kathy Turner

-Weds, May 4, 11, 18, 10 a.m.-noon or 7-9 p.m., **Introduction to Family Tree**, Various instructors

-Thurs, May 5, 10 a.m.-noon, **There's An App For That**, Melanie Bosselman

-Tues, May 17, 10 a.m.-noon, **Family Tree For Tablets**, Kim Gasson

-Thurs, May 19, 7-9 p.m., **Organizing Your Genealogy**, Gloria Milmont

-Wed, May 25, 10 a.m.-noon, **Find My Cousins**, Melanie Bosselman

-Wed, May 25, 7-9 p.m., **Family Tree: Merging Duplicates**, Kathy Turner

Ahoy...matey!.....Finding a Pirate in the Family Tree

Fellow genealogist and Laramie County Library Special Collections volunteer, Cynthia L. Cook shared her exciting genealogy research discovery with us...

While going through the latest issue of *American Ancestors Magazine* to see what was new, and to read an article, about New England pirates, I came across the name, Joseph Libby—a man who had been a crewmate on a ship at-



tacked by a pirate ship, who was then conscripted as a crew member of that pirate ship—a "forced man." My personal research

has included a Joseph Libby, the nephew of my 9th great-grandfather, Henry Libby. I had been looking for more than 20 years for confirmation of a "pirate incident" related to my Joseph Libby. The story continues, that soon after the crews' conscription, the pirate ship was captured by a British Man-of-War and the ship and crew were brought to Newport, Rhode Island, where the crew was tried for piracy. Although he had depositions from his captain and others saying he went unwillingly, Joseph was still convicted as a pirate. A total of 25 men were hanged on July 19, 1723 in Newport Harbor, one of the largest mass execu-

tions in American history. After looking on Ancestry, I found an obituary from a Rhode Island and Boston newspaper with his name...and the notation that he indeed was executed as a pirate.

Findmypast Announces a Raft of New U.S. Partnerships

Findmypast, primarily a company that supplies genealogy information from the British Isles, has made a number of recent announcements about its partnerships with leading technology providers, showing its serious efforts to become a major genealogy provider in the U.S. The raft of new partnerships include deals with RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, FamilySearch, Family-Historian, Pizzilla, Billion Graves, and RootsCity. Findmypast will make its vast record collection of more than 8 billion records available to customers via these partners. The rollout of these partnerships will begin in 2016, with exact dates to be detailed later. Customers using these various family history products will benefit from having Findmypast's record collection embedded within the actual product in ways that each partner determines will benefit their customers most. Adding to the excitement, Findmypast also announced that in 2016 it will build on its extensive British and Irish database by adding hundreds of millions of new U.S. records including the most comprehensive collection of US marriage records available anywhere.

Mocavo has recently announced its move to FindmyPast. According to their Website, "We are now in the process of moving all Mocavo site content to Findmypast so you'll soon be able to enjoy everything currently available on Mocavo and more. As part of our 'Free Forever' promise, Mocavo subscribers will continue to enjoy free access to all of the same records that were previously published for free on Mocavo. We will be transferring accounts over to Findmypast soon so stay tuned for updates. You don't need to do anything just now. We're hard at work bringing the two sites together and we'll be in touch with specific information about your account once the migration has taken place, with some how-to guides to help make the most of the new experience."

New Online Database of Wyoming Oral Histories to Launch This Spring

Researchers looking for oral history materials in Wyoming will have a new resource when the Wyoming State Historical Society launches the Wyoming Oral History Online Database later this spring. The database will serve as a comprehensive, updatable listing of oral histories held in libraries, museums, private collec-

tions and other repositories in the state. The WSHS received a grant from the Wyoming State Historic Records Advisory Board to survey the oral history holdings in the state, and turned up at least 2,500 oral histories that will be included in the database. For more information, visit www.wyshs.org

Answers to the jumbled word puzzle provided at our Feb CGHS meeting:

1. declaration of intention
2. deed
3. dna
4. descendants
5. documentation
6. enumeration district
7. family group record
8. family history library
9. gedcom
10. genealogy
11. land patent
12. mortality schedule
13. naturalization records
14. oral history
15. passenger list

16. pedigree
17. pension
18. primary source
19. probate records
20. secondary source
21. social security death index
22. soundex
23. township
24. vital records
25. will
26. death certificate
27. obituary
28. birth certificate
29. ancestors
30. cemetery records
31. census
32. cluster genealogy

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

- Kim Benson
- Donna DiNino
- Dean Parks



"Check This Out"

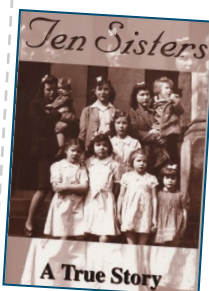
Family history-related fiction & nonfiction
book reviews by CGHS members & others

Sister: A Family's Story of Home- steading and Survival

Sister—A Family's Story of Homesteading and Survival

by Mildred Crofutt Bryant (1999—
Nonfiction; Bench Mark Enterprises)

As the oldest of twelve children, Mildred Crofutt relates her family story of homesteading in the Lance Creek area of Niobrara County, Wyoming in the early twentieth century. Her voice is soft, yet she is able to relate both happy and sad times that her family faced, while drawing in the reader. As narrator, Mildred shares the story of her family's survival, revealing details of a horrible tragedy, which brought the family together, made them stronger, and turned them into true survivors. There are no genealogy tips and tricks, no hidden secrets for research in this book, just the struggles and successes of the family, which are similar to others living during this time. This is a nice, quick read, which will give you a better understanding of everyday life in the 1900s, and possibly a way to relate some of your own family history.



Ten Sisters—A True Story

by Virginia, Deloris, Rhita, Mary, Irma,
Robertta, Phyllis, Vera, Audrey and Doris
Waggoner (1997—Nonfiction; Mayhaven
Publishing)

Glen and Ruth Waggoner had twelve children, two boys, and ten girls. In 1942, a Coles County, Illinois Court ruled the parents unfit, and ordered removal of ten of the children. The boys, who enlisted in the military service, are not part of the story. Ten different voices share an intertwining story of survival, while adrift in an unfamiliar world. To assist in telling the story, exhibits of several court documents appear early in this saga of a family's lifelong struggle. While the documents tell what happened, they do not tell why it happened. Possibly as a way to try to figure out the why, chapter by chapter, each sister shares her memories of growing up and the intense struggle to stay together and remain a part of their parents' lives. One of the youngest sisters mentions she barely knew her older brothers, somewhat a commonality in larger families, but even more so here with their separation. Other than the documents previously mentioned, there are no genealogy hints in this book. If the reader is inclined to make detailed notes of each sister's chapter, the development of a family timeline may lead to further research. Some chapters are easier to read than others, complex memories are poignant and much like any childhood in the 1930s, while others are tragic. This too, is a story of survival, and provides an understanding of life during this time.

—Book reviews by Robin Everett

CGHS Officers for 2016-2017

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