



*Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society*

Apr-May-Jun 2023

Vol. 20 Issue 2

Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Reveals Identities of Hundreds of People in Early 19th-Century Portrait Album

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery has announced the launch of [William Bache's Silhouettes Album](#), a microsite featuring new research and digitized images for 1,800 cut-paper silhouettes by Anglo-American artist William Bache. In addition to presenting portraits of famous figures like Thomas Jefferson and Martha Washington, the digital project restores the identity of previously unknown individuals rarely encountered in Federal-era portraiture—from traveling entertainers to tavern keepers and dance instructors. Funded by Getty through its Paper Project initiative, the digital platform features hi-res images, a biography and interactive timeline of Bache's life, conservation reports and more for this important example of one of the most affordable forms of portraiture in early U.S. history.

In 2008, Smithsonian conservators discovered the fragile papers of the Bache album contained arsenic and could not be safely handled or displayed without special precautions. The National Portrait Gallery used Getty's support to overcome these limitations by fully digitizing the entire volume. Robyn Asleson, the lead curator and curator of prints and drawings at the National Portrait Gallery, also completed extensive research that confirms the identities of hundreds of sitters in New Orleans and generates a new understanding of traveling portrait artists at the turn of the 19th century.



"Although the Portrait Gallery has owned this album of silhouettes for over 20 years, it took the support of the Getty and the digital resources that are now available to finally unlock its secrets," Asleson said. "Digging deeply into the circumstances of the album has shed fascinating new light on the artistic practice of William Bache and has yielded a few surprises, such as his extraordinary mobility in pursuit of new markets and his extensive use of advertising to promote himself." Asleson and research assistant Elizabeth Isaacson scanned through Ancestry.com, digitized newspapers, history books, baptismal records, wills and other legal documents to unveil the identity of sitters, including many of Afro-Caribbean descent for whom no other

likeness is known to exist. Users of the microsite can now "flip" through pages of the album and click on high-res images of each portrait to learn the sitter's full name, lifespan or years active and the date their portrait was created.

Another major discovery came when Asleson expanded her research to Spanish-language materials, which verified Bache worked in Cuba producing portraits in the largely untapped market. The revelation revealed that approximately 1,000 silhouettes in the album were made in the Caribbean, from Catholic priests wearing birettas to sitters of African heritage. Affordability was key to Bache's success, as contemporary newspaper ads digitized on the microsite offer "four correct profiles for 25 cents"—today's equivalent of approximately \$5. The low price enabled a greater range of social classes to purchase these keepsakes compared to costlier forms of portraiture like painting or sculpture. The microsite's interactive timeline presents Bache's biography in great detail, from his immigration to Philadelphia to his successful career creating silhouette portraits without formal training, traveling from town to town to provide his services. He produced striking likenesses of his sitters by using a unique type of [physiognotrace](#), a mechanical device Bache patented in 1803 with his partners Augustus Day and Isaac Todd. Bache's business savvy is also evident in his decision to set up shop in New Orleans just after Louisiana became a U.S. territory and was booming from the sugar trade. His nearly 700 portraits in New Orleans showcased the extraordinary internationalism of the city at the time, with sitters of French, Spanish, German, British and Caribbean descent.

"Understudied works on paper like the Bache album exist in many museum and archival collections, and Asleson's project is exactly the kind of curatorial creativity Getty seeks to support with our Paper Project initiative devoted to bringing prints and drawings to the public in fresh ways," said Heather MacDonald, senior program officer at the Getty Foundation who oversees these grants. "It's a common human experience to wonder about our ancestors, and the Bache microsite can convert this curiosity into new discoveries."

Upcoming Events:

11 July 2023
"Adding Memories to FamilySearch FamilyTree"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m.

12 July 2023
"Indentured Servitude in the Mid-Atlantic States"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 6:00 p.m. MDT

19 July 2023
"Swedish Church Records"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m.

19 July 2023
"I Hate Conflict! Mediating Sources that Don't Agree"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

20 July 2023
"Home on the Range: Introducing U.S. Federal Land Records"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m. MDT

25 July 2023
"A Deep Dive into U.S. City Directories at My Heritage"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

26 July 2023
"Why We Should Look at In-Laws When Doing Genealogical Research"
Free Legacy Family Tree
[Webinar](#) 12:00 p.m. MDT

1 Aug 2023
"Adding New Individuals to FamilySearch FamilyTree"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m. MDT

3 Aug 2023
"The Bred, the Wed & the Dead, Eh? An Introduction to Canada Civil Registration"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m. MDT

8 Aug 2023
"Merging Duplicate Individuals on FamilySearch FamilyTree"
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)
10:00 a.m. MDT

Calendar Confusion! Explanation of 11 "Missing Days" in Understanding Early Calendars

This information is from "Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Off-line Genealogy for Kids," by Ira Wolfman, 1991.

In 1752, something very odd happened in the British Isles and all English colonies, including America. People went to sleep on September 2 1752. When they woke up the next morning, the date was September 14, 1752. Eleven days—Sept 3 through 13—had disappeared. These are the famous "missing days" that keep genealogist on their toes. They vanished in British lands in 1752, but a number of days have disappeared in other countries too, at other times. As a result of this mystery, you may find dates from the 18th century written with two numbers: 11 Feb 1731 O.S./22 Feb 1732 N.S. (O/S means "old style" & N.S. means "new style.")

What's this all about? Here's what happened. The British were among the last people in the world to accept the fact that the calen-

dar they were using was flawed. The "Julian" calendar—named after Julius Caesar, who adopted it around 45 B.C.—called March 25 New Year's Day and said the year was 365 days and 6 hours long. The length was very close—wrong by only a few minutes. But after nearly 2000 years, those few minutes added up to an error of ten days. Most of the world adopted a new calendar (advocated by Pope Gregory XIII), called the "Gregorian" calendar, sometime after 1582, when they jumped forward by 10 days, and October 5 became October 15.

The British refused to go along until the middle of the 18th century, and by then the difference had grown to 11 days. Finally, on September 2, 1752, the British joined most of the world and changed their calendar. In all British lands (with the exception of Scotland, which had changed 100 years before), Septem-

ber 2 was followed by September 14. And 1753 began on January 1, not March 25.

All this means is that you have to double-check the dates you find in English-speaking countries between 1582 and 1752. Are they listed as O.S. or N.S.? Do you see a date listed for 1750/51? That would probably be a date between January 1 and March 24—which means that 1750 is the old-style notation and 1751 is the one we now use. Here are the dates that changes took place in some other countries:

—Austria: January 7, 1584 became January 17, 1584

—France: December 10, 1582 became December 20, 1582

—Norway: February 19, 1700 became March 1, 1700

—Sweden: February 18, 1753 became March 1, 1753

Proper Ideas for Figuring Out Correct Dates & Ages Used in Genealogical Research

This information was taken from The "New York Researcher," Spring 2010 by Patricia Law Hatcher.

Dates are fundamental to genealogy and it is fundamental that genealogists use them properly. Except when quoting from an original source, dates should be expressed in genealogical format: 2 March 2010 (no commas). If the original does not give a standard date with month, day and year, the original text should be preserved, with the interpretation provided in editorial square brackets so that the reader can be assured that the date is correct: 1st day 3rd month [May] 1730, 1st day 3rd month [March] 1830, 12th next [April] 2010, first Monday in Easter [5 April] 2010.

Very often we do not have an exact date for a vital event. When possible, it is best to define the vital date in terms of dated events that we do have. For example, instead of saying John Smith died in 1708, it is genealogically better to say he died between 9 June 1708 (will) and 10 August 1708 (probate), because in this way it is clear that

he could have been the man who sold land in February 1708 but could not have been the man who sold land in December 1708. When bracketing death dates, think beyond events directly related to death: *he died between 30 June 1708 (deed) and 30 July 1708 (wife called 'widow' in church membership).*

In scholarly publications we use specific terminology to describe how we have determined a non-exact date. 'About' or 'circa' (Latin for about) are used to indicate a date calculated from an inexact age, as on a census, deposition, or tombstone: *born about 1847 (1850 census), born about 1798 (age at death on gravestone), born about 1740 (deposed about 45 years in 1785).*

'Say' indicates a date estimated from life events: *born say 1790 (first land purchase in 1815), married by say 1702 (child baptized in 1703), born by say 1677 (estimating marriage at 25).* It is based on statistically common patterns and therefore could be off by a number of years.

Estimation of birth years based on life events, together with the

construction of family groups, is an essential genealogical technique. Robert Charles Anderson (*the Great Migration project*) discusses its value: When there is not an exact date for a vital event, such as birth, baptismal, marriage or death, we will in all instances create an approximate date for that event. We do this for a number of reasons. Sometimes this type of chronological analysis will reveal an unsuspected contradiction in previous treatments of a family, indicating perhaps that not all the children of a man could have been born to his only known wife.

Ordering Families

The process of determining the order of birth of children in a family, although time-consuming, frequently provides some of the best new data on that family...the value of this process in pointing out conflicts and contradictions and in directing further research is worth the effort. (*More information on 'establishing ages' in next issue of the CGHS Journal.*)

Genealogy News You Can Use...

Walk Down 'Memory Lane'—Users Can Now Digitize Old Photos, Reels, Negatives, Films etc. at the FamilySearch Library Preservation Center for Free

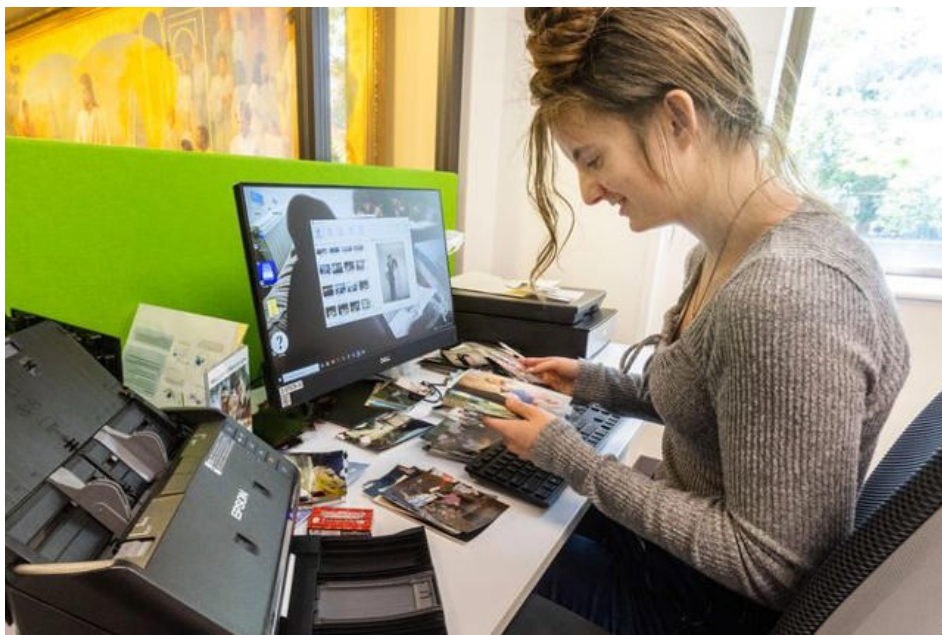
The Family Memories Preservation Center at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City debuted in June and offers free digitization of photos, films, negatives, slides, tapes, and other important documents and artifacts.

"The Memory Lane service is a great opportunity to ensure family memories will be preserved and available for future generations," said Debbie Gurtler, FamilySearch assistant library director.

Located on the second floor of the FamilySearch Library, equipment is available for reservations and walk-ins. All you need is a device to store your new digital treasures, such as a USB or external hard drive — but you can even borrow that from the center if you forget, the Library release noted. Reservations can be made online on the [Family Memories Preservation Center](#) website. Having a reservation helps ensure equipment is available for you. See link for help in preparing for a visit.

"Every family probably has photo albums or boxes of photos or old video tapes and reel-to-reel films they have produced or acquired through the years," Gurtler said.

Volunteers and library staff are available to help visitors use any of the equipment. Portable USB drives are available for free but may not have sufficient memory for larger projects. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own flash drives or portable hard drives. Files can be loaded directly to a patron's personal online



A patron organizes hundreds of pictures at the Family Memories Preservation Center in the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. The center, located on the second floor of the library, is now open and free to the public. © The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

storage location like Google Drive and iCloud.

"I brought a box of family photos and did 150 in about an hour and a half or so," Gurtler said. "You can put them all into a stack without worrying about the different sizes, place them on one of the self-feeding photo scanners, and they just automatically feed through. It's hard to imagine how quick it can be with the high-speed scan-

ners." Digitized files can also be attached to people on the FamilySearch FamilyTree via FamilySearch Memories. In Memories, they can be organized by topic, preserved as a slideshow or album or used as sources for life sketches. Visit the [Family Memories Preservation Center website](#) for details about the types of equipment available and how to make optimum use of the facility.

Annual Lakeview Cemetery Walk Scheduled for Saturday, 19 August 2023 to Feature Unique Jobs of Yesteryear

The CGHS annual Lakeview Cemetery Walk will be held Sat., August 19. The theme this year is "Take This Job and Love It," and will feature interesting characters who had unusual jobs in Cheyenne's history. There will be two start times—9:15 & 10:00 am. with no reservations required; \$10 entrance fee for each adult; children aged 12 & under are free. Proceeds help fund book acquisitions for Special Collections at the Laramie County Library. Call 307-630-0924 for more information.

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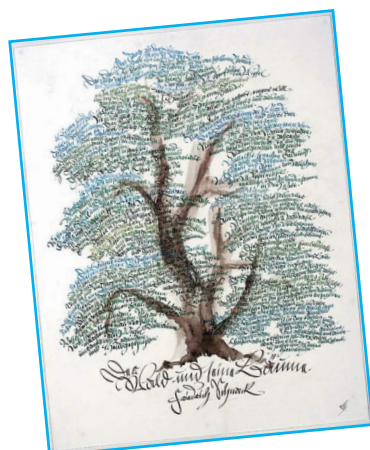
Website:
www.cgshwyoming.org

To contact CGHS or to
submit newsletter
suggestions and/or
articles, send a note
to wendywy04@aol.com

Congratulations to the new and continuing officers of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society for 2023-2024:

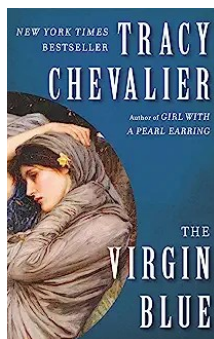
President: Cathy Banks
Vice President: Valerie O'Neil
Secretary: Jeanette Hursman
Treasurer: Jo Butler
Past President: Judy Engelhart

The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society continues to wish our members healthy, productive genealogical research! We encourage all members to pay their CGHS dues, participate in our programs, get assistance at the library, and invite friends & new members to join us!



"Check This Out"

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

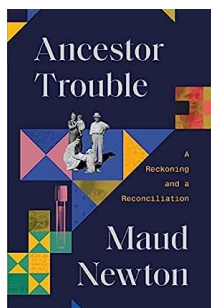


The Virgin Blue: A Novel

By Tracy Chevalier (c. 2003, 320 pages; Penguin Books, New York, NY—historical fiction, mystery)

Meet Ella Turner and Isabelle du Moulin—two women born centuries apart, yet bound by a fateful family legacy. When Ella and her husband move to a small town in France, Ella hopes to brush up on her French, qualify to practice as a midwife, and start a family of her own. Village life turns out to be less idyllic than she expected, however, and a peculiar dream of the color blue propels her on a quest to uncover her family's French ancestry. As the novel unfolds—alternating between Ella's story and that of Isabelle du Moulin four hundred years earlier—a common thread emerges that unexpectedly links the two women. Part detective story, part historical fiction, **The Virgin Blue** is a novel of passion and intrigue that compels readers to the very last page.

—Amazon Review



Ancestor Trouble: A Reckoning and a Reconciliation

By Maud Newton (c. 2022, 378 pages; Penguin Random House, New York, NY—nonfiction, history, biography)

Maud Newton's ancestors have fascinated her since she was a girl. Her mother's father was said to have married thirteen times. Her mother's grandfather killed a man with a hay hook. Mental illness and religious fanaticism percolated Maud's maternal lines back to an ancestor accused of being a witch in Puritan-era Massachusetts. Newton's family inspired in her a desire to understand family patterns: what we are destined to replicate and what we can leave behind. She set out to research her genealogy—her grandfather's marriages, the accused witch, her ancestors' roles in slavery and other harms. Her journey took her into the realms of genetics, epigenetics, and debates over intergenerational trauma. She mulled over modernity's dismissal of ancestors along with psychoanalytic and spiritual traditions that center them. **Ancestor Trouble** is one writer's attempt to use genealogy—a once-niche hobby that has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry—to make peace with the secrets and contradictions of her family's past and face its reverberations in the present, and to argue for the transformational possibilities that reckoning with our ancestors offers all of us.

—Goodreads Book Review

Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize—An acclaimed writer goes searching for the truth about her complicated Southern family—and finds that our obsession with ancestors opens up new ways of seeing ourselves—in this "brilliant mix of personal memoir and cultural observation."

—The Boston Globe.