

# Pages of the Past

CELEBRATING  
HISTORICAL FICTION

Vol. 1, No. 1, April 5, 2019

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- Author Spotlight: Emily-Jane Orford
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## From the Editor

Welcome to the debut issue of Pages of the Past. I'm glad you joined us from the beginning. I hope that Pages of the Past will share interesting books in the historical fiction genre, both new releases and those that have been published for a while. Each week we will spotlight an author. I hope you discover new authors here to read and enjoy. My hope is that the articles included each week share useful bits of information, inspire you, strengthen your writing, and help in celebrating this delightful door to the past. Feel free to share the newsletter with others that you think might enjoy it.

This first issue kicks off with Emily-Jane Orford sharing about how her grandmother influenced her love of history and this shows up in Emily-Jane's writing.

Our feature article shares how articles with written accounts of people of the past give us a peek into a world that existed many years before we did. Several sites that I think you'll find interesting are included that give us an interesting view into days long gone.

When we hear of new releases, we'll share with you here. This issue features *The Life and Times of Lilly Quinn: A Tale of the Old West*, by Carolyn E. Cook. It released recently and it's a story I enjoyed very much. Each week we'll also have a Reading Round-Up, sharing several books from a specific era. We're starting off with some books from the 1700s and before. Next week we'll feature books from the 1800s, then we'll move through the decades each week – 1900s/1910s, the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s -- then we'll start the cycle again. If you have a favorite book that fits into one of these categories, let me know and we'll include it in one of the future lineups.

Please feel free to share about something you liked about the newsletter or any comments you have that might help improve it. Email me at [texastrishafaye@yahoo.com](mailto:texastrishafaye@yahoo.com)

Let's celebrate this fascinating world together as we read, and some of us write, tales of a historical nature.

Trisha

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## Articles as Our Link to the Past

### Trisha Faye

Often I joke that I'd be happy if I could figure out how to get paid to sit and research all day. I truly enjoy writing historical fiction – both short stories and longer works. But the research, ah, that's where my heart sings. Especially when all the planets align and I discover delicious tidbits with ease, instead of the roadblocks and rabbit holes that can so often be the results of our research time.

A few weeks ago, for example, I ran across something that had me doing a happy dance. Luckily, I don't have a camera on my monitor, so there's no visual proof of my antics that afternoon. (Be relieved!) Although I write stories in different eras, my passion is the 1930s. I tease that it's John Steinbeck's fault. Reading *Grapes of Wrath* in junior high, probably coupled with hearing stories about my grandparents early adult years (married in 1935), fueled my favoritism for this decade.

While researching for one of the short stories I was working on, I saw a reference to a series of articles that John Steinbeck wrote, "The Harvest Gypsies". The articles were commissioned by *The San Francisco News* and were published from October 5-12, 1936. Steinbeck interviewed migrant workers and shared about the hardships encountered in these post-Depression years. I wanted to read those articles. Can you lust after a printed page? I was.

Fortunately, I didn't have to foray into the World Wide Web too deeply before I found a copy of [The Harvest Gypsies](#). I read that in 1938 the articles were published, along with Steinbeck's epilogue "[Starvation Under the Orange Trees](#)", in a pamphlet entitled *Their Blood is Strong*. Wikipedia reports that ten thousand copies of this pamphlet sold at twenty-five cents each. With a little more digging, I found a copy of the epilogue to accompany the treasure I'd printed out earlier.

Reading these, and other articles in a similar vein are fascinating to me. Interviews with people that lived in times prior and other written accounts are like a time capsule, taking us back to the days of long ago. These written accounts give us a direct peek into lives that we may otherwise not know. And even better, it's all from the comfort of our own heated and air-conditioned homes, where we live with full refrigerators and stuffed bellies. Then, we close the page, go out to our luxurious automobile (compared to my Grandpa's 1928 Chevy), and drive to the market a mile away to purchase anything we desire. I always feel so spoiled and grateful after reading some of these accounts of the life people that lived so many years ago.

For a little more reading fun, here are a few other sites I discovered in various research expeditions.

[Life in a Michigan logging camp](#)

[Prohibition times and photos in Michigan](#)

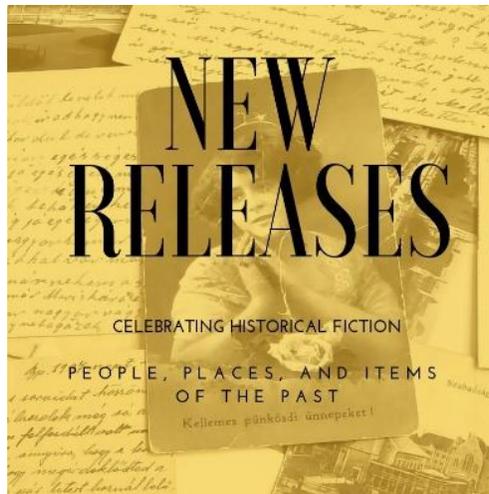
[Moonshine in Arkansas](#)

[A Pennsylvania Miner's story](#)

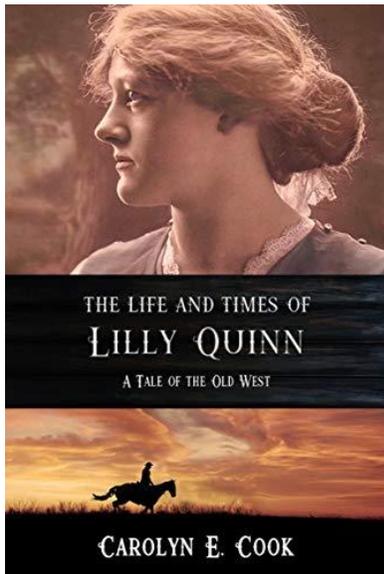
[Diaries, Memoirs, Letters and Reports Along The Trails West](#)

Happy reading!

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## The Life and Times of Lilly Quinn Carolyn E. Cook



Fleeing hazardous circumstances in New Orleans, Lilly Quinn arrives in hardscrabble and rough Minden Springs, a thrown-together town on the dry prairie of 1870's Kansas. She plans to continue her journey onward to San Francisco, but her chance sighting of Barnett Swan, the only lawman for miles around, gives her pause. She chooses to remain, at least for the time being. Lilly says, "It was only the shortest of encounters, perhaps a minute, but on that much alone, I made the rash decision to retrieve my carpet bag from the stage and extend my stay in this dismal place. That marshal seemed worth investigating." Little does she know that the choice will determine the entire future course of her days.

Told in the voice of feisty and independent Lilly, the story encompasses many years and colorful characters. It is full of life, love, shootings, heroes, and villains, an un-putdownable saga of the Old West. Lilly reveals its myths, its sometimes brutal reality, and the way the landscape captures the imaginations and hopes of those who settle there. Or those who simply pass through.

*Each week Pages of the Past features one new release. Authors, if you have a new historical fiction that is slated to release soon and would like to have it as the featured book, email me at [texastrishafaye@yahoo](mailto:texastrishafaye@yahoo) to see if a spot is open near your release date.*



Interestingly enough, I didn't meet Emily-Jane Orford through a historical fiction avenue. Thanks to this wonderful digital world we live in now, I 'met' Emily-Jane through an essay she contributed to the anthology [In Celebration of Mothers](#) about a Mother-Daughter day she shared with her mother, Jean Hills, with a writing workshop followed by lunch together.

With the distance between Canada and Texas, our paths probably wouldn't have crossed in real-life. Yet thanks to the virtual airwaves between us, we've stayed in contact and I discovered that this talented author writes in a variety of genres and about an interesting array of different topics.

I've enjoyed her tale of *Mrs. Murray's Ghost* and also her tale of the past, *Queen Mary's Daughter*, which takes a historical account and adds a bit of an unexpected twist to it. I'm pleased to introduce Emily-Jane Orford as our first featured author in the premier issue of Pages of the Past. Here's Emily-Jane to share some tidbits about her historical writing with you.

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**Emily, Jane, what drew you to write historical fiction?**

Actually, I write in several different genres, but memoir, creative nonfiction, and historical fiction are my favorite genres. My passion for historical fiction stems back to my loving bond with my grandmother. We shared a love of reading, specifically historical fiction, and most specifically Scottish historical fiction.

**Do you have a favorite era to write in? What do you enjoy most about that era?**

Late sixteenth century/ early seventeenth century. I have always been fascinated with the life and times of Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth I. Once again, this was a shared interest with my grandmother.

**Do you have any favorite methods you use in researching your books?**

Reading. I read other authors writing in the same genre and era. But I also enjoy doing research – mostly online as it's so convenient, the information being quite literally at my fingertips. I also enjoy browsing through libraries and archives, looking at historical documents.

**Tell us about one of your favorite characters from one of your books.**

My favorite character in “Queen Mary’s Daughter” is definitely the grandmother. I created her character using fond memories of my own grandmother. I know she would be thrilled, not only with the story but also with her part in it.

**Do you have a current historical fiction work in progress? Can you give us a little teaser about it and let us know when we can look for it?**

There is a sequel to “Queen Mary’s Daughter”. My readers have asked for it and it’s awaiting publication. I just signed the contract with CleanReads. “King Henry’s Choice” picks up where “Queen Mary’s Daughter” left off. I’ve also started an Arthurian fantasy/historical fiction story for young adults. I love the question ‘what if’ and it always sparks new ideas. In “Queen Mary’s Daughter”, I asked myself the question, “what if Mary Queen of Scots had another child, another heir to the Scottish throne?” For my Arthurian story, I’ve asked myself the question, “What if King Arthur really did have an heir?”

### **About Emily-Jane Orford:**

An avid gardener, artist, musician, and writer, Emily-Jane Hills Orford has fond memories and lots of stories that evolved from a childhood growing up in a haunted Victorian mansion. Told she had a ‘vivid imagination’, the author lived her stories in her head, allowing her imagination to lead her into a different world, one of her own making. As the author grew up, these stories, imaginings, and fantasies took to the written form and, over the years, she developed a reputation for writing a good story. Emily-Jane can now boast that she is an award-winning author of several books, including *Mrs. Murray’s Ghost* (Telltale Publishing 2018), *Queen Mary’s Daughter* (Clean Reads 2018), *Gerlinda* (CFA 2016) which received an Honorable Mention in the 2016 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards, *To Be a Duke* (CFA 2014) which was named Finalist and Silver Medalist in the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards and received an Honorable Mention in the 2015 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards and several other books. A retired teacher of music and creative writing, she writes about the extraordinary in life and the fantasies of dreams combined with memories.



**You can find Emily-Jane Orford’s books here:**

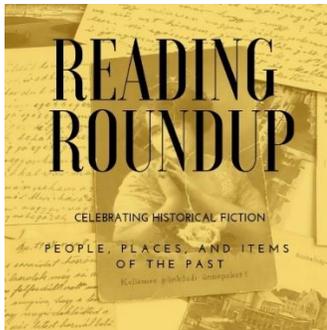
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**You can find Emily-Jane here:**

[Her website: http://emilyjanebooks.ca](http://emilyjanebooks.ca)

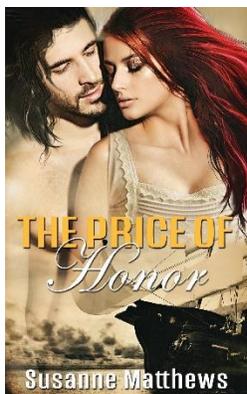
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## 1700's & Earlier

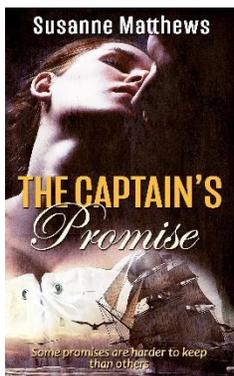
### The Price of Honor Susanne Matthews



History is rich with stories and legends, but those take on an even greater significance when you realize your own ancestors may have played a small but significant role in the founding of your country. *The Price of Honor*, historical fiction, is the first book in my Canadiana series. I'm French Canadian. Both sides of my family came to New France in the 1660s, one side in the military, the other as a trapper, a *coureurs de bois*. When the regiment was disbanded, soldiers who opted to stay in the colony were given land. Officers were knighted by King Louis and made *Seigneurs*. Was my ancestor one of the lucky ones? I don't know, but that was the idea that went into creating the series.

Using facts, rumors, and suppositions found in historical records of the time, with historical figures interacting with fictitious ones, I've woven the story of a romance between an aristocrat fleeing France and an unwanted marriage, determined to clear her first husband's name, and the boy, now a man, who fell in love with her way back when. In the course, of their search for the truth, they uncover a plot that may well mean the end of French colonization in North America. Join Isabelle and Guy as they seek the truth and pledge their love and honor to the new world.

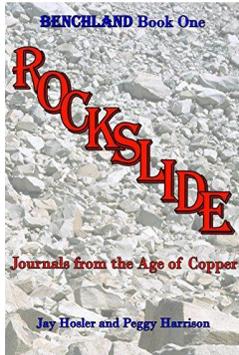
### The Captains Promise Susanne Matthews



Etienne Blouin left Danielle de Cherbourg in tears, promising to return; he didn't. Ten years later, Etienne learns she's been widowed and left almost penniless. Now a wealthy ship's captain, he offers to help her, but the only reply he gets is from her aunt telling him to leave Danielle alone. Convinced she's in trouble, he determines to rescue her whether she likes it or not, even if it means losing her love. Danielle is shocked to learn that her companion is going to the colonies, while she is to marry a cruel and powerful man as repayment of her husband's gambling debts. Despondent, she sees no way out of the horrendous situation. When her carriage is waylaid and she's kidnapped, she fears the worse. Etienne has enemies who don't want *La Belle Rose* to make port. Can he outfox them to save his ship and the woman he loves?

# Rockslide

Peggy Harrison & Jay Hosler



A story of strong women  
A story of ancient technology  
A story of love,  
A story of war

Five thousand years ago . . .

Two very different young couples are thrown together by a powerful fall storm and must join forces to survive the coming winter.

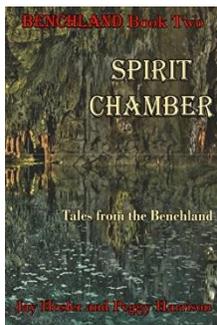
One couple fled the distant north to escape barbarian savagery. The other—far from their peaceful southern fishing village—believes the Raiders from the North are nothing more than an old story.

Together they establish a secure winter stronghold, but when they learn that raids endanger even the peaceful fishing village itself, they must act. The race to warn the village leads to a surprising and violent conclusion.

This story—told by three women—will change your view of prehistoric people.

# Spirit Chamber

Peggy Harrison & Jay Hosler



Five thousand years ago—late in the Age of Copper—two desperate couples found winter refuge in a cave. Exploring miles of subterranean passages, they discovered an exit onto the Benchland, a three-mile-long shelf of fertile ground, an isolated and beautiful place of wildflower, forest, and stream, set high on the steep wall of a river canyon and completely inaccessible to roving raiders, the scourge of that time in Europe. With ample game, year-round water, and firewood, the Benchland became home to the four founders and generations of their descendants.

The Benchland series is based on paintings the original settlers left on the walls of the cave—a pictorial diary of the colony, now an archaeological and historic treasure. Spirit Chamber recounts events in the lives of the colony's second and third generations and tells of the discovery of the cave and its paintings by modern scientists who find, deep within the cave, a mysterious and spectacular place of power that binds them to the original settlers—the spiritual heart of the Benchland colony . . . the Spirit Chamber.

*Authors: Do you have a historical fiction book or short story that you'd like featured in Pages of the Past? Email me at [texastrishafaye@yahoo.com](mailto:texastrishafaye@yahoo.com) to see about scheduling your book or short story in a future issue.*

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