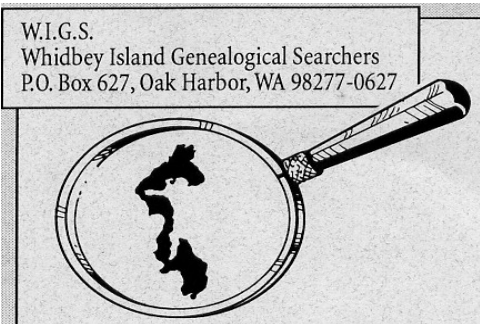


W.I.G.S.  
Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers  
P.O. Box 627, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-0627



# THE SEARCHER

WIGS NEWSLETTER –FALL 2015 - Vol. XXI No. 3

## WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

Bringing together the generations to strengthen and support the family bond!

WIGS meets the second Tuesday of each month,  
September thru June at 1:00 PM in the fire station at  
2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, Washington.

### OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

- President: Marjorie Kott
- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
- Secretary: Joyce Boster
- Treasurer: Patricia Papendorf
- Auditor: Carolyn Bakker
- Historian: Jackie Vannice
- Library Custodian: Yseldah Applegate
- Membership: Laurie Livingston
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs: Ruth Hancock
- Publications: John Richter
- Refreshments: Margaret Peterson
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
- Webmaster: Sam Wheeler

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For a quick check on what is happening with WIGS,  
visit <http://www.WIGS.webplus.net>.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest:  
Neglected and alone.  
The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished, marble stone.

It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to morn.  
You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you  
In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday, I would find this spot,  
And come to visit you.

### WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Sep 8, 2015** Our speaker will be Jim Johnson from Heritage Quest Genealogy Library in Sumner, WA. He will explain the wealth of information we can glean from using library cards for our research, also finding ways to get

their cooperation in this. Jim is an expert in any subject dealing with genealogy. Bring your questions for him. He will be bringing books to buy. There will be drawings and refreshments.

**Oct 13, 2015** Maureen McDonald returns to speak to us regarding the Relationship of Health with Migration. This should be a very enlightening presentation. Just consider why people relocate for health reasons, perhaps some of your ancestors are among those who relocated for these reasons.

**Nov 10, 2015** Another returning speaker, Joan Peters, a South Whidbey Genealogy society member, will enlighten us with a report on "Homesteading on Whidbey".

*Happy 220<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the United States Marine Corps.*

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### What's Happening Elsewhere

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#### South Whidbey Genealogical Society

**Oct 12, 2015** Janice Lovelace, Ph.D., will talk about "Beyond Online: Beginning Courthouse Research. Time: 1:15 p.m.

**Nov. 9, 2015** Five Strategies for find ancestors in their Homeland will be the topic presented by Eric Stroschein. Time 1:15 p.m.

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### Webinars

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#### Legacy Family Tree Free Webinars:

**Sep 9, 2015** Research Your Swedish ancestors in Living Color Using ArkivDigital Online

**Sep 16, 2015** Researching Your Dutch Ancestors.

**Sep 23, 2015** Researching Your Ancestors In England and Wales.

These live webinars can be seen at 11AM on days indicated at <http://familytreewebinars.com>

Recommend you check in 10 minutes early. Also Legacy live webinars are normally free for about 10 days from when first broadcast.

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### Family Search

At [familysearch.org/learningcenter](http://familysearch.org/learningcenter) some free videos available include:

Exploring Census Records using the Digital Archives of Norway

How to Trace Hungarian Ancestors

Swiss Research Basics

Basic Italian Research

Birth and Christening Records for Swedish Genealogy

You should check out the entire list of available videos. There is sure to some of interest/use for you.

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### GENEALOGISTS

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We are the story tellers, the bards, the druids of the tribes.

We hear the calling of those who went before us as their path leads to ours.

We yearn to discover their stories, to know each and every one of them.

We search for their graves, their histories, and an understanding of their lives beyond cold statistics.

We connect to a past rich in history and hardships, loves and losses, glories and gains.

We understand ourselves as we understand them, the same genes, the same features, the same family.

We honour them and bestow our respect to their memory, for their bones are our bones, their flesh is our flesh.

We record carefully all that we have unearthed, learned, discovered, understood and surmised.

Then, we pass the torch of knowledge and heritage to our children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

We are the story tellers, the bards, the druids of the tribes.

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## German Naming Conventions

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Does your German family tree seem to be overloaded with Johanns and Marias? I have Johann Henrichs, [brothers named Johannes Caspar and Johannes Franz Caspar](#), Maria Catharinas, a Maria Teresia, Anna Marias and more.

German children were given two names. Boys commonly were baptized with the first name Johannes (or Johann, often abbreviated *Joh*). German girls were baptized Maria, Anna or Anna Maria. This tradition started in the Middle Ages.

So a family could have five boys with the first name Johann. You can see the potential for confusion until you understand that *the first name doesn't mean a thing*.

The **second name**, known as the *Rufname*, along with the surname is what would be used in marriage, tax, land and death records.

So in a family with boys Johann Friedrich, Johann Peter, Johann Daniel, etc., the children would be called by (and recorded in documents as) Friedrich, Peter and Daniel. Usually, the name Johannes in these records marked a "true John" who would continue to be so identified.

By the 19th century, more Germans gave their children three names. Again, typically only one of the middle names was used throughout the person's life. Roman Catholics often used saints' names, while most Protestant groups also included names from the Old Testament or even non-Christian mythology.

A second naming tradition involves nicknames, often called *Kurzformen*. In English, most nicknames are created by dropping the end of the given name

(Christopher becomes Chris). But Germans often shorten a name by dropping the first part. Examples include:

- Nicklaus >> Klaus
- Sebastian >> Bastian
- Christophel >> Stophel
- Christina >> Stin or Stina
- Katharina >> Trin

Note that these familiar forms are used in church or other records, even though by today's standards we might expect formal names to be used.

In German-speaking areas, children were almost always named for one or more of their baptismal sponsors. The most common pattern would be for sons to be named in this order:

- first born, for father's father
- second born, mother's father
- third born, father of the child
- fourth born and on, uncles of the child

The same pattern applies to daughters but using the mothers' names (father's mother, mother's mother, etc.). Families would reuse given names for children who died young. There are even documented instances of families using the same name for two children who both survived.

*Genealogy Insider July 09, 2015*

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## Global Name Translation

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Genealogy website MyHeritage has introduced a new technology, which it's calling Global Name Translation, that helps you overcome language barriers when searching for relatives on MyHeritage.com

You can search for records in one language and you'll receive relevant results from other languages, with the indexed information translated into the language of your search.

"For example, a search for Alessandro (Alexander in Italian) will also find "Саша" (which is the Russian form of Sasha, a popular nickname of Alexander in Russia) with its corresponding transliteration into the language of your search," says Daniel Horowitz, the site's chief genealogy officer and translation manager.

Here's another example from MyHeritage's announcement: "If a user from Greece with a family tree in Greek, is related to a user from Israel with a family tree entered in Hebrew, MyHeritage will be able to connect them, automatically matching between names in the ancient languages of Greek and Hebrew, and show the two users how their family trees overlap."

This graphic, provided by MyHeritage, shows matches from different countries for the name Jacob Schmidt.

You can use MyHeritage's Advanced Search form to prioritize results from your ancestral countries by choosing life events (birth, marriage, residence, etc.) and entering the place where each one occurred. You'll find step-by-step MyHeritage search advice in Family Tree Magazine's downloadable MyHeritage Web Guide.

*Genealogy Insider July 08, 2015*

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**Don't Let Mythology Guide Your Genealogy Research!**  
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How can you tell if the information posted by individuals on internet genealogy sites is correct? Some sites have sources but others don't. How do you know what, and when, to believe what you read online??

A good rule of thumb is....

Don't trust anything you find on the internet (or elsewhere) if it doesn't have sources.

The Importance of Sources

Without sources you can't verify the information, which means you don't know if it is accurate or if it came from a reliable source. Perhaps it came from Great Aunt Martha. Aunt Martha may have some of it right, but she may have mixed up a lot too. Word of mouth, aka family lore, is often quite wrong or confused but with a shred of truth. Without verification, a researcher has no way of knowing what's true and what is not.

The information may have come from a book written by someone 100 years ago who didn't have access to sources we have now.

Perhaps the information was transcribed from a book that was transcribed from a microfilm which was in turn transcribed from the original. The chance of human error is greatly increased with each succeeding transcription.

Verify the Information by Checking the Source

Even if a source has been recorded for the information, you should double-check it personally. That means find the original source and verify that what you found was correct. If the information does not have a source, it is up to you, the researcher, to track down where the information came from.

If you write to whomever posted the information online you might be lucky enough to get a source citation from that person. Then you can access the original source and check to see if the information you found is correct. If you cannot get a response to your request for a source, you will have to go on a hunt or look for other records to verify the information you found.

Evaluate the Source

You also want to think about the source itself. Is the source a good one? If Great Aunt Martha gives me information on the birth or baptism of my 3rd great-grandpa and I put it online with the source recorded as "Remembrances of Great Aunt Martha", that's not necessarily a reliable or accurate source. So while it is important to source your findings, you also have to consider how reliable the source is. After all, Great Aunt Martha did have that fall from a horse when she was a child and she IS 97 years old. How accurate is her memory?

However, if I source the birth or baptismal dates with full details on the church where I saw the original record, or the published transcript of those church records, that's much more reliable. There are many good books available on how to write proper source citations, such as "Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, Third Edition" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Sources Can Be Misquoted

Sometimes (more often than you might think) sourced information is misquoted or misunderstood. For example on a newsgroup recently someone asked for assistance in figuring out exactly where in Ontario her great-grandfather was born. She provided a quote regarding his being born in a "...fortified town near the border with America" adding that it came from a newspaper article written about him while he was alive.

When I obtained the article I discovered she had misquoted what was actually written. The only reference to his birth stated "[He] is a Canadian...born in a distant fortified outpost on the borders of Canada and America".  
Newspaper-Ontario  
Credit: The South Australian Advertiser  
(Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889). 7 February 1887.  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

That's quite different from her version. The American-Canadian border is found in other provinces besides Ontario. Thus her misquoting of the information was leading her astray. She had a mythical story of her great-grandfather being born in Ontario when in fact he might have been born in any one of several provinces that border on the United States. As

well her use of "near the border" instead of the actual wording of "on the borders" makes a difference as to what locations fit the reference given (near vs on). It's important to be accurate and precise when using quotes as a source.  
Sources Can Be Misunderstood

Several years ago a friend asked me to help him find out where in Indiana his grandmother was born. His source for her birth was a family bible. But a check of the bible revealed that her parents were born and married in Ontario and all her siblings were recorded as being born in Ontario. All other records, such as census and death records gave her place of birth as Ontario. It seemed unlikely that she was born in the United States but what about the reference to Indiana? Further research revealed that there was a small village in Ontario called Indiana about 5 miles from where her parents were born and married and about 10 miles from the family's location in various census records. My friend had misunderstood the original source.

Keep This Mantra in Mind

When in doubt, remember....

"Genealogy without sources is mythology"

Don't let your genealogy research be guided by mythology.

*Lorine McGinnis Schulze is a Canadian genealogist who has been involved with genealogy and history for more than thirty years.*

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### Census Taker

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" I am a census takers for the city of Bufflow. Our city has groan very fast in resent yeers & and now in 1865, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peepphill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessessarie to have a ejuchashun, wich a lot of pursons steal do not have. Anuther atribeart needed for this job is god speling, for meny of

the peephill to be counted can hardly speak englishly, let alone spell these names!"

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### Sanborn Maps

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From 1867 to 1977, the Sanborn® Map Company of Pelham, New York, produced large-scale (usually 50 feet to the inch) color maps of over 13,000 towns and cities across the United States in order to assist fire insurance companies in setting rates and terms. The color-coded Sanborn maps depict the location, dimension, height, and use of buildings, as well as the materials employed in their construction, and other relevant features. The Library of Congress web site refers to these color-coded maps as "probably the single most important record of urban growth and development in the United States during the past one hundred years."

The following online collections offer free access to digitized copies of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for select states, cities, and towns. Most date from the 1880s through 1921 or 1922, as more recent maps are still protected by copyright. Maps from 1923 through the 1960s are also available for many localities, but due to copyright restrictions you need to visit or contact the Library of Congress or other repositories holding Sanborn Maps for access.

1. Library of Congress: Sanborn Checklist. This searchable database provides information on the Sanborn fire insurance maps housed in the collections of the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division in Washington, DC, as well as links to online images that have been scanned from the collection. Only a portion of the collection is digitized, but over 6000 sheets are online in the following states: AK, AL, AZ, CA, CT, DC, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NV, OH, PA, TX, VA, VT, WY, as well as Canada, Mexico, Cuba sugar warehouses, and U.S. whiskey warehouses.

Use the following link to find more access points.

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/historical\\_maps/tp/Sanborn-Fire-Insurance-Maps-Online.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/historical_maps/tp/Sanborn-Fire-Insurance-Maps-Online.htm)

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### 1915 New Jersey Census collection

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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (September 1, 2015)—FamilySearch International has added more than 2.7 million searchable historical records from the 1915 New Jersey State Census to its free online collections. New Jersey records are highly sought after by family historians because the state was a popular settling point for millions of immigrants during the heyday of US immigration from 1892 to 1924. The 1885 and 1905 New Jersey State Censuses are also available, making these three online collections invaluable for researchers. You can search the [1915 New Jersey Census collection](#) and more than 5.8 billion other free historical records at [FamilySearch.org](#).

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### Virtual Genealogy Conference

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#### 12 Tips to Make the Most of the Virtual Genealogy Conference

##### Sept. 18-20

Family Tree University Virtual Conference, coming up Sept. 18-20, works, and tips for getting the most out of it.

- Once you complete your Virtual Conference registration, you'll get an email with instructions on logging in to participate. When you log in, you'll see the welcome page with links to each track of video classes (Genetic Genealogy, Genealogy Technology, Research Strategies and Ethnic Research), live chats, the discussion board, the exhibit hall, and FAQs. Click on a link to visit that area of the conference.

- The video classes are recorded, so you can watch them whenever you want during the conference, and/or download them to your computer to watch later. You also can visit the discussion board any time during the conference.

- Live chats happen at scheduled times, and we post chat transcripts to the discussion board for anyone who missed them. Valuable genealogy tips emerge from these chats! Thinking about registering? Here are some Virtual Conference tips I've gathered over the years of participating in these:

- Log in any time over the weekend to access videos or the discussion board-even in the middle of the night. If you have kids, you might need to call Dora the Explorer and Little Einsteins into service when you attend the scheduled live chats.

- You can download videos to watch later, but if you're especially interested in one, try to watch it during the conference so you can post any follow-up questions to the message board.

- To download a video or a PDF directly from a link, right-click on the link and choose Save As, Save Target As or Save Link As (depending on your browser). Choose to save to your desktop, allow a minute for downloading, then open directly from your computer.

- Print out a PDF of the presentation slides before sitting down to watch a video. Then, if there is a particular part of the video that you want to revisit, you can jot down the time signature next to the corresponding slide so that you can go back and re-watch later.

- The message board is great for posting brick walls and research questions, and getting to know people. We also usually have threads for introductions, surnames (I'll post names with places, such as "Depenbrock: Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Ky. "), favorite genealogy books and websites, old family recipes, and more. Feel free to start a thread.

- Keep your favorite snacks handy, since you'll be spending some time in front of the computer. Break out your comfy slippers, too.

- Don't forget to account for time zones when planning to attend live chats. Topics

include Ancestry.com tricks, organizing your genealogy, analyzing genealogical evidence and more.

- Live chats can be fast-paced. Usually, the moderator opens things by asking a question of the group. Don't be shy about jumping in-that breaks the ice and makes it easier later in the chat, when you want to ask a research question or comment on someone else's question.

- Write down questions you have about the topic before entering a live chat. That way you'll feel less pressure to come up with questions on the fly, and you can engage in the conversation instead of racking your brain to make sure you ask everything you need to.

- In a busy live chat, if you respond to another person's comment, it helps to start with their name: "Diane, I hear passport records are ... " Other comments will appear between the original comment and your response, so this helps connect the two.

<https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/fall-2015>

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**More Punography**  
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A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

How do you make holy water/ you boil the hell out of it!

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type O.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

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