



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Summer 2017 - Vol. XXIII No. 2

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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 through June at 1:00 PM in the fire station at 2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, WA.

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
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- Webmaster: Janice Keough

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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First cousins once removed-What exactly does that mean? I knew I had a lot of first cousins. Counting them in my head, I figured that I had between 40 and 45. As I pondered the subject more, I got out the history books for both of my parents and was shocked to see I had 63 first cousins. (Many of my family members were farmers and I guess they needed help on the farm).

I enjoy chatting on the phone with one of my cousins about family history. We share stories about our huge family reunions every July 4th. There were always several crank freezers making ice cream for dessert. She and I are the same age but we are in different generations. I know she is my first cousin once removed, but beyond that I needed some help. I looked on the Internet and was overwhelmed at how much information there was on cousins. But in the end, to me cousins are those childhood playmates who grow up to be forever friends.

Margie Kott

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

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June 13, 2017 Winona Laird will give a presentation on: “Immigration, Emigration, Naturalization and Passports”. Learn how to research your ancestors in other countries by first finding when and where they came to the United States. Ports of Immigration, how to use an emigrant record for genealogy research, and the naturalization process will be presented.

Winona Laird has been doing genealogy for over 60 years, becoming a professional genealogist after retiring as an accountant.

Bring a friend to this exciting presentation.

July & August 2017 Summertime, no meetings. Happy family visiting and sleuthing. Sharpen your paper searching skills in the courthouses, local historical society locations, family homes for pictures/stories, cemeteries, county/state and national archives. A great time to use other than internet searching skills. Update your family records, including sending copies of your backup to someone or store in the cloud.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

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August 30 – September 2, 2017. The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, *Building Bridges to the Past* will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Information and registration at www.fgs.org.

September 12, 2017.
Program: Introduction to the coming Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island Year

The Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island welcomes back old friends and looks forward to new ones as we anticipate the start of a new year. As you may remember, September has always been a month of sharing successes, mourning failures and looking for new ways to advance our ancestral research. To that end, we ask our society members to arrive with a research milestone to share. It can be a long sought after break through, a successful research trip, freshly discovered photographs, books or diaries, or a website to share.

Throughout the year, we will learn about school records, railroad history and its research, naturalization, New York research, and more. Our continuing beginning genealogy class will start on October 10th, at 11:45 a.m., prior to the speaker at 1 p.m. See you on September 12th, at 1 p.m. The society meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

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HELP WANTED

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The main reason I joined WIGS was for the monthly presentations. These are a very important part of the organization. Our current Program coordinator, Ruth Hancock, has done an excellent job for the past 10 years. She has let us know she will be stepping down at the end of the year. We want to thank her for all her efforts and the great speakers she has had come to our meetings.

Now we are asking for a member to step forward to assume this very important position. Doing so now will give you an opportunity to get to know the ins and outs

of the position. Listed are a number of the things that are required for doing the job.

- Choosing subjects.
- Looking for speakers at least 6 months ahead.
- Contact speaker at least 3 months before meeting.
- Contact speaker 2 months before meeting.
- Check fee, contact treasurer for payment.
- Check lists in notebook
- Try to have an emergency backup.
- Help set up flyers and newspaper announcements.

Contact any board member if you are interested or wish to volunteer. We urgently need YOU to step forward.

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23andMe Authorized to Provide 10 New Genetic Health Reports to DNA Customers
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Posted by Diane Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Genetic genealogy and health testing company 23andMe announced that the FDA has authorized the company to issue 10 new genetic health risk reports to customers. Those include Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Hereditary Thrombophilia, Celiac Disease and others (see the rest of the authorized report and a description of each condition in this 23andMe blog post).

The FDA in 2013 ordered 23andMe to stop offering its health analysis, which informed test-takers about their risks for 254 diseases and conditions, because the company hadn't proven its tests were "analytically or clinically validated." After negotiations with the FDA, 23andMe began offering more-limited health-related reports in 2015.

To obtain the FDA's authorization for the new reports, 23andMe "conducted extensive validation studies for accuracy and user comprehension that met FDA standards," according to its blog. The FDA also established a new authorization pathway for future 23andMe reports that are "substantially equivalent" to those already approved, which should facilitate reports on additional conditions.

The company will release the new set of genetic health risk reports in April. New customers will receive the reports when they're available. Customers who've already tested should look for an email from 23andMe about their eligibility to receive the new reports (this has to do with your geographic location and the genotyping "chip" used for your original test). See more details on the 23andMe blog.

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SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS
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Many experienced genealogists can tell you that using the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps is a great way to learn more about the lives of your U.S. ancestors, especially if they owned their own homes or rented homes or their places of business.

The Library of Congress has placed online nearly 25,000 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, which depict the structure and use of buildings in U.S. cities and towns. Maps will be added monthly until 2020, for a total of approximately 500,000.

The online collection now features maps published prior to 1900. The states available include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada,

North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Alaska is also online, with maps published through the early 1960s. By 2020, all the states will be online, showing maps from the late 1880s through the early 1960s.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are a valuable resource for genealogists, historians, urban planners, teachers or anyone with a personal connection to a community, street or building. The maps depict more than 12,000 American towns and cities. They show the size, shape and construction materials of dwellings, commercial buildings, factories and other structures. They indicate both the names and width of streets, and show property boundaries and how individual buildings were used. House and block numbers are identified. They also show the location of water mains, fire alarm boxes and fire hydrants.

You can learn more in the Library of Congress web site at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-074/?locr=fbloc-new>. The Sanborn Fire Maps that are already online may be found at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection>.

Eastmans Online Genealogy Newsletter May 29, 2017

This series of maps is one of my favorite genealogical maps. The maps published before about 1922 are in the public domain and are available to anyone. If you view the updated maps, published after the initial one, you will see the change in the town. These are good maps for historical purposes. Those published after 1922 are available from the publisher at a cost. Some of these later maps may be viewed in public libraries.

Use this link to see how to use the Sanborn Maps in more detail:
<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/>

Sno-Isle Library has a microfilm of the Sanborn Map of Oak Harbor, dated 1929. Coupeville was done in 1914, updated 1931, also on microfilm.

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What Do You Do When the DNA Results Seem to be Lying?
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Dick Eastman · May 26, 2017 · DNA

I received an email message today that is not terribly unusual. I have received a number of similar questions before. I did reply in email, but I thought I would also write an article about it as I am sure others have faced the same “problem.” In fact, the resolution is simple, although a bit expensive.

This is the email message I received although I edited out the name of the person and the name of the DNA testing company in order to protect the privacy of both. In fact, this could have happened with any of the DNA testing companies:

I have a topic that has been bugging me lately. A certain DNA testing company is advertising about their “ethnicity” reports. My previous family history results show that I am over 80% British Isles and less than 5% German. However, I know that my father (he had his test done, too) is almost 50% German/Czech. Our family history research also shows that his father must have been close to 100% German.

I understand that I get what I get – not an exact % split of DNA but a roll of the dice. However, their commercials imply that you will know that you are not German if the DNA test shows no German in the ethnicity profile. What gives?

I think they are misleading people with those ads. What’s your opinion? (I also

think their ethnicity reports are not 100% accurate.)

Thanks for your consideration of my question, and thanks for your newsletter. It has led me to several invaluable resources over the years of family records I would have never found otherwise.

Here is my (slightly edited) reply:

There are at least two possible reasons that the DNA results show non-German ancestry of the individual in question. The most obvious reasons are:

1. A mistake at the DNA lab where your test sample was accidentally swapped with a sample from someone else.
2. Did his ancestors REALLY come from Germany and nearby regions? Sure, that's what the records show, but were those REALLY HIS ANCESTORS?

One "mystery" that turns out to be very common in DNA research is that someone was quietly adopted into a family some years ago without paperwork and other family members kept it quiet (this happened often; I have several examples in my own family tree).

Another possibility is what is humorously referred to as a "non-marital event." That is, someone in your family tree spent at least one night with someone other than his or her married and documented spouse. And, of course, there was an occasional case of rape.

While we all smile when we say "non-marital event," the fact remains that such liaisons were common throughout the years, even in the 1700s or later.

There is a book called *Sex in Middlesex* by Roger Thompson. The book is not

available online, but a well-written review of that book by Alicia Crane Williams may be found at: <https://vita-brevis.org/2017/03/sex-in-middlesex/>.

In the book, Roger Thompson describes various sex "crimes" that were tried in court in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, in the mid- to late-1600s. As reviewer Williams wrote:

"Sex in Middlesex pulls its facts from the Middlesex County, Massachusetts, court records. Eleven chapters discuss court cases by categories such as "Fornication: Detection and Evasion," "Courtship and Patriarchal Authority," "Pregnant Brides and Broken Promises," "Unfaithful Wives," "Unfaithful Husbands," and "Community Control." Statistical charts include "Geographical Incidence of Sexual Misdemeanors [1649–1699]" (the winner is Charlestown with 60, next was Cambridge with 31), and "Incidence of Conviction for Sexual Misdemeanors."

I am sure such events were not limited to one county in Massachusetts. Anyone digging through old records can find many similar court cases everywhere else. While we commonly think of our ancestors as straight-laced Puritans or others who would never do such things, the fact remains that they were human beings with the same weaknesses and challenges that modern-day humans face. The court cases reveal that unmarried couples or couples who were not married to each other had extra-marital affairs probably at least as often as do today's couples.

So, were your grandfather's REAL ancestors from someplace other than Germany? Or did one of your ancestors have an extra-marital liaison that you do not know about? It is possible that the DNA results you have received may prove something about your grandfather's ancestry that perhaps even he didn't know.

Luckily, the solution is simple, although a bit expensive. Have another DNA test taken by another DNA lab. (I have had my DNA tested by four different DNA labs, and I know of other genealogists who have tested with even more labs than that.) See if all the test results agree.

If only one test result shows non-German ancestry, then the first assumption probably is correct: the lab made an error.

However, if all the DNA tests say that he had little to no German ancestry at all, then I would suggest that you have some new family history challenges ahead of you!

I can hear a collective gasp from everyone reading this article: "What? Not MY ancestors!"

But it was true many, many times.

So here's a question for everyone else: What's in YOUR DNA?

DNA information is currently dominating genealogy internet sites. One that caught my attention was a contrary article which hypothesizes that DNA results are not unlike Astrology. The author made the assertion that DNA results could be likened to the snake oil salesmen of the old west. Just saying.

John

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A DAY LATE AND DOLLAR SHORT
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The following is from the 1 April 2014 issue of the Genealogy Insider by Diane Haddad.

6 April Fool's Day Pranks From History
Posted by Diane

Tales of April Fool's Day origins vary. Some say the tradition of playing pranks began about 1562 in France. Pope Gregory

introduced the Gregorian Calendar, with the year starting on Jan 1 instead of April 1, but some hadn't heard of or didn't believe the date change. When they still celebrated the new year on April 1, their more enlightened countrymen played tricks on them and called them April Fools.

Today we might set all the clocks ahead two hours or put confetti in a spouse's umbrella (or create an imaginative magazine cover). On a grand scale, some of my favorite April Fool's Day pranks from history include:

1933: The Madison Capital-Times newspaper reported that the state capitol collapsed due to explosions from gases produced by the debates of state politicians. The article was complete with a doctored photo showing the capitol dome askew.

1949: New Zealand radio announcer Phil Shone told listeners a mile-wide wasp swarm was headed for Auckland. He urged them to take precautions such as wearing socks over their pants and leaving traps outside their doors. Hundreds complied.

1957: The BBC news show Panorama announced a bumper spaghetti crop in Switzerland, with footage of farmers pulling spaghetti strands from trees. Viewers who called the BBC asking how to grow their own spaghetti trees were advised to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

1976: An astronomer said during a BBC Radio 2 interview that at 9:47 a.m., Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, causing a phenomenon that would reduce the Earth's gravity. Anyone who jumped at the exact moment of the planetary alignment would feel a floating sensation. Hundreds claimed to have felt this sensation.

1977: This one is close to my editor's heart: Britain's Guardian newspaper published a

seven-page supplement about an Indian Ocean holiday spot called San Serriffe. The two main islands, Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse, resembled a semicolon, with towns such as Bodoni and Garamondo, a leader named Gen. Maria-Jesu Pica, and a national bird called the Kwote. Guinness, Texaco and Kodak ran ads. Readers called the paper's offices all day for more information, and travel agencies and airlines complained that customers were insisting on vacationing in the islands. The San Serriffe Liberation Front even wrote the Guardian editor protesting the paper's pro-government slant.

1996: Taco Bell took out full-page ads in major newspapers, announcing the company had bought the Liberty Bell and renamed it the Taco Liberty Bell. The Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, which houses the Liberty Bell, was flooded with angry calls.

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BLOGS

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by [Kimberly Powell](#)

Updated March 03, 2017

There are hundreds, if not thousands of genealogy and family history blogs online, offering a daily or weekly dose of education, enlightenment, and entertainment. While many of these genealogy blogs offer outstanding reading and current information on new genealogy products and current research standards, the following are favorites of mine for their excellent writing and timely updates, and because they each bring something special to the world of genealogy blogging. In no particular order:

01

[GENEA-MUSINGS](#) www.geneamusings.com
Michael Hall/Digital Vision/Getty Images
Randy Seaver's excellent blog stands here as a representative for the many great personal family history bloggers (since there isn't room in this short list to highlight all of the great ones). His site includes enough of an eclectic mix of news, research processes,

personal reflections, and genealogy debate to make it of interest to almost any genealogist. He reminds me of me, I guess...and will probably remind you of yourself as well. He shares genealogy news and new databases as he finds and explores them. He shares his research successes and failures so you might learn from them. He even shares the ways in which he balances his research with family and personal responsibilities. Randy's musings bring out the genealogist in all of us... [More »](#)

02

[THE GENEALOGUE](#)

www.genealogue.com

Many of you probably already read Chris Dunham regularly, but if you haven't, you're in for a treat. His unique brand of genealogy humor puts a special spin on just about everything genealogy, from interesting items culled from old newspapers to tongue-in-cheek commentary on current genealogy news and products, to a regular genealogy challenge to keep us all on our toes. He posts regularly - often several per day. And his special [Top Ten Lists](#) are always good for a chuckle. **Note: The Genealogue is on temporary hiatus as Chris deals with a family situation, but there is enough content already online to keep you busy for months!* [More »](#)

03

[ANCESTRY INSIDER](#)

www.ancestryinsider.org

This "unofficial, unauthorized view" offers current reports, updates and yes, even criticisms, of the big genealogy Web sites - especially [Ancestry.com](#) and FamilySearch.org. This blog is often the first to report on new updates, products and announcements from the "big" genealogy organizations, and provides the "insider" point of view you won't easily find elsewhere. [More »](#)

04

[CREATIVE GENEALOGY](#)

Creativegenealogy.blogspot.com

I originally "met" Jasia through her excellent [Creative Gene](#) blog, but her newer Creative Genealogy Blog is the one I'm highlighting here. Through this blog she brings something new to family history enthusiasts -

challenging us to take time off from the names, dates and research to instead pursue creative ways of sharing our ancestors with the world. Her primary focus is searching out and highlighting great family history oriented kits for [digital scrapbooking](#), but she also discusses photo editing and other creative pursuits. [More »](#)

05

[THE GENETIC GENEALOGIST](#)

[thegeneticgenealogist.com](#)

Blaine Bettinger helps you add DNA to your genealogy toolkit with his insightful posts on the current and future status of genetic genealogy. His easy-to-read blog, updated almost daily, highlights various genetic testing companies and projects, current news and research, and various tips and resources for people interested in genetic genealogy testing and/or disease gene analysis. [More »](#)

06

[GENEALOGY BLOG](#)

[Thegenealogyblog.com](#)

Leland Meitzler and Joe Edmon, along with a number of other occasional authors (Donna Potter Phillips, Bill Dollarhide and Joan Murray), have been blogging about genealogy here since 2003. Topics run the gamut from genealogy news, press releases and new products, to research techniques and highlights from other blog posts around the Internet. If you only have time to read one blog, this is a good one to consider. [More »](#)

07

[THINK GENEALOGY](#)

[thinkgenealogy.com](#)

Mark Tucker is a software architect by day and a family historian on "as many nights and weekends as possible." Boy, can I relate! His blog is an interesting, thought provoking outlet for his thinking about genealogy and [genealogy software](#). If you're a technology nut like I am, then a regular dose of his blog will help you keep on "thinking." [More »](#)

08

[THE PRACTICAL ARCHIVIST](#)

Unable to access. Perhaps in the future it will be available at [www.practicalarchivist.com](#)

09

[EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER](#)

<https://blog.eogn.com>

News, reviews and a wealth of insightful commentary on various technologies as they relate to genealogy are the hallmark of Dick Eastman's blog, read regularly by almost every genealogist I know. A variety of helpful articles and tutorials are available to "Plus Edition" subscribers, but the majority of the content is available for free. [More »](#)

10

[BOSTON 1775](#)

[www.boston1775.blogspot.com](#)

If you have any interest in the American Revolution (or maybe even if you don't) this outstanding blog by J. L. Bell is a daily pleasure. The eclectic content covers New England during the time just before, during and after the [Revolutionary War](#), and uses a wealth of information taken from original source documents to discuss how that history has been taught, analyzed, forgotten and preserved. You'll soon be looking at America's early history in a different way. [More »](#)

[AND THE REST....](#)

There are so many other well-written, entertaining genealogy blogs that I enjoy on a regular basis. [Dear Myrtle](#) by Pat Richley. [24-7 Family History Circle](#) featuring Juliana Smith, Michael John Neill and Maureen Taylor. [Geneablogie](#) by Craig Mason. [Rootdigby](#) Michael John Neill. [Family Oral History Using Digital Tools](#) by Susan Kitchens. [Walking the Berkshires](#) by Tim Abbott. [Genealogy Reviews Online](#) by Tim Agazio. [Hill Country of Monroe County, Mississippi](#) by Terry Thornton. [AnceStories](#) by Miriam Robbins. [Family Matters](#) by Denise Olson. [Tracing the Tribe](#) by Shelly Talalay Dardashti. Find these and others in my list of [Genealogy Blog Favorites](#). If I've missed one you enjoy, please let me know about it! [More »](#)

Source: www.thoughtco.com/genealogy-blogs-worth-reading-1421713

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