



# THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Fall 2017 - Vol. XXIII No. 3

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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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- President: Margie Kott
- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
- Secretary: Nedra Weber
- Treasurer: Sam Wheeler
- Auditor: vacant
- Historian: Jeanan Richter
- Library Custodian: Bob Keough
- Membership: Judy Wagner
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs: Ruth Hancock
- Education & trips: Jackie Vannice
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Margaret Peterson
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
- 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.WIGS.webplus>.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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I was going through some old photo albums and found a picture of my great grandparents. They are from my mother's side. Along with the picture was a book of family history written by my great uncle George Washington Hoke. Most of it was about the Hock/Hoke families. However, because my great grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Dohner/Donner was second cousin to George and Jacob Donner, the author of the book included some of Donner Family as well.



OUR GODLY ANCESTORS  
JEREMIAH S. HOKE  
AND  
MARY ELIZABETH DOHNER HOKE

In April 1846 the Donners, being of pioneering nature, began emigration from Illinois to California by wagon train called "the Donner Party" in a group of 89 members. From the Missouri River they traveled over the great south pass of the Rocky Mountains to present day Wyoming. Near Ft Laramie, they learned of the latest explorations and a direct route bearing southwest to the Salt Lake and on to Yerba Buena, which is now called San Francisco. They ran into difficulties however, when the route left the established track of the Emigrant Trail to follow the newly-discovered shortcut south of the Great Salt Lake. The new route proved to be nearly impassable for heavy wagons. By now winter snows had set in earlier than usual in the salty mire southwest of the lake. Snow storms would often last ten days at a time with snow 10 to 30 feet deep. The days were almost unbearable due to the cold and lack of supplies. Because the Donner Party got into the mountains almost a month late as well, they were forced to stay at Alder Creek, CA several miles from Truckee Lake (now called Donner Pass) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A steep climb prevented them from reaching Sacramento Valley. My relatives, Jacob and George Donner never made it to their destination, now known as San Francisco. Jacob and his wife Elizabeth died at Alder Creek. Their son William died but their son Solomon was rescued. George and his wife Tamsen died at

Alder Creek, but all five of their children were rescued. This ended a brave but grim pilgrimage which resulted in the death of 42 persons. However by cutting a new road through the Sierra Nevada Mountains the Donners made a significant contribution to the settlement of California as well as the settlement of the Salt Lake area.

I have learned my ancestors came from West Germany. Michael Donner came to America from Zweibricken Germany in 1710, and Hans Georg Hock came to America from Webenheim Germany in 1737. He was born in 1709. Many years later their descendents became neighbors in Lancaster County, PA. Two of the families lived across the field from each other. They were David and Catherine Hock, now spelled Hoke, and Moses and Catherine Donner, now spelled Dohner. David and Moses were both farmers and helped each other when needed. In 1834 a son Jeremiah was born to David and Catherine Hock. That same year a daughter Mary Elizabeth was born to Moses and Catherine Donner.

Moses was also a minister. He felt he should go to Ohio to visit his brother and to encourage the family in their reading of and obeying God's word. After all that is why they came to America, so they could have freedom to worship God the way they interrupted the Bible. After saying goodbye to his family, Moses

left Pennsylvania on horseback. He rode 600 miles hoping to stay at homes along the way, but as homes became fewer and fewer it required him to blaze his own trail and sleep under the stars. Six weeks later he arrived at his brother's home weary but safe. One Sunday morning he was speaking to a little group gathered in a home to encourage them in the things of the Lord. As they knelt in closing prayer he fell over dead at the age of 42. He was buried in the corner of the woods on his brother's farm. That corner of the woods is now the cemetery of the Highland Brethern in Christ Church, West Milton, Ohio where I grew up and went to church as a child. Back in Pennsylvania, Moses left a wife, Catherine and six children. The oldest being a 16 year old daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Across the fields lived David Hoke and family. David sent his 16 year old son Jeremiah to help Catherine with the farm work. Romance soon blossomed between Jeremiah and Mary Elizabeth. They married at ages 19 and 20 and later became my great grandparents, Jerry and Mary Hoke.

Between 1854 when Jerry and Mary got married, and 1985 when the number of family members was recorded, there were 1,390. Jerry and Mary moved to Ohio in 1866. Since Jerry died in 1907 and Mary died in 1925 it is possible that they could have been at the first Hoke Reunion when it started on July 4,

1901 in Ohio. It was always held at family farms and well attended. It continued for 111 years. The last reunion was in 2012 with only a few attending. The older folks had passed away and for various reasons the younger folks no longer had an interest.

During this research, I learned there are double cousins between the Hocks and the Donners. However, that suggests more research at a later date.

Margie

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**WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS**

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**September 12, 2017** Jennifer Fromm from Sno-Isle Library system will discuss Archiving. This is a particularly timely topic considering the devastation in Texas this month.

**October 10, 2017** Our presenter will be Joan Peters telling us on how to use Civil War records for finding and recording our ancestors from that critical period in our history.

**November 14, 2017** To be determined. An email will be sent when the presenter has been engaged.

**December 12, 2017** Time for our annual pot luck and personal sharing of the years success, or lack thereof. All members attending are asked to provide treats for the group. We especially enjoy when ancestors' receipts are shared, both actual and recipes.

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE**  
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**Genealogy Society of South Whidbey**

Meets in Freeland at Trinity Lutheran Church in their Chapel & community building.

**Monday September 11th:** Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Leland Meitzler

Program: Organizing Your Electronic Genealogical Documents Leland Meitzler

Leland was Managing Editor of Heritage Quest until January 1996, when he accepted the position of executive editor. He became vice president, print publications and acquisitions in February 2000, and now works at the new Heritage Quest facility in North Salt Lake, Utah.

One of Leland's most popular topics is 'Organizing Your Electronic Genealogical Documents' which is the topic of this program. It should be a great learning experience.

**Monday October 9th:** Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Janice Lovelace

Program: Newspaper Research: What Can You Find Out

Janice Lovelace, Ph.D., has 20 years of experience in family history research as well as academic work in genealogy.

This program will be centered on Newspaper Records and how to find and use them. Newspapers are an important source for information on your ancestors. Learn how to find local, ethnic, religious, and organizational newspapers as well as discovering the variety of information provided. Go beyond birth, marriage and death notices to legal notices, social events, elections and advertisements.

**Monday November 13th:** Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Gary Zimmerman

Program: Hudson Valley Research

Gary Zimmerman, President of the Fiske Genealogy Library, will present a program on Hudson Valley research. Gary will cover the history of settlement in the Hudson Valley, while also identifying the best places for finding records for family research.

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**ROOTS TECH 2018**  
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The 2018 Roots Tech conference is scheduled for February 28 – March 3, 2018.

Check out their web site at:

<https://www.rootstech.org/>

Check often for early bird deals.

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**Family History Month**  
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Family History Month is scheduled for October. As a kick-off for this **Wiki-Tree** is doing their 2<sup>nd</sup> Source-a-thon, September 30 - October 2. This three-day event is for a good cause (sourced genealogy!) and there will be over **\$4,600** in door prizes donated from around the genealogy community. It will be lots of fun.

Check out the details at:

[www.wikitree.com/wiki/Source-a-Thon](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Source-a-Thon)

This might be an interesting experience.

Give it a try.

**WIGS CHALLENGE** Looking for a volunteer to check out this site and report to the membership. This looks like an interesting endeavor. Anyone up for the challenge?

[https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:The\\_Free\\_Family\\_Tree](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:The_Free_Family_Tree)

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UPDATE: FamilySearch Digital Records  
Access Replacing Microfilm

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Dick Eastman · August 30, 2017 ·

The following announcement was written  
by the folks at FamilySearch:

*Salt Lake City, Utah (30 August 2017), Thursday, September 7, 2017, marks the closing of an 80-year era of historic records access to usher in a new, digital model. FamilySearch is discontinuing its microfilm circulation services in concert with its commitment to make billions of the world's historic records readily accessible digitally online. (See FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm). As its remaining microfilms are digitized, FamilySearch has provided additional information to users of its historic microfilm program.*

*FamilySearch, a global leader in historic records preservation and access, began microfilming historic records in 1938. Advancements in technology have enabled it to be more efficient, making an unbelievable tide of digital images of historic records accessible much quicker online and to a far greater customer base. FamilySearch released a list of helpful facts and tips to help patrons better navigate the transition from microfilm to digital.*

**QUICK FACTS AND TIPS**

*Patrons can still order microfilms online until Thursday, September 7, 2017.*

*After film ordering ends, if customers need access to a particular film yet to be digitized, they can express interest to have it added to the priority digitization list by contacting FamilySearch Support (Toll Free: 1-866-406-1830).*

*All of the microfilm rented by patrons in the past 5 years have now been digitized by FamilySearch—over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images).*

*The remaining microfilms are being digitally scanned at a rate of 1,000 films per day and are projected to be complete by 2020.*

*New digital images are available as they are scanned in the FamilySearch.org Catalog.*

*Films currently on loan in family history centers and affiliate libraries are automatically granted extended loan status. Affiliate libraries now have access to nearly all of the restricted image collections as family history centers.*

*Visitors to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will still be able to order needed microfilms to use during their research visits.*

**HOW TO FIND DIGITAL IMAGES ON FAMILYSEARCH**

*Digital image collections can be accessed today in 3 places on FamilySearch.org, all under Search.*

*Catalog. Includes a description of all the microfilms and digital images in the FamilySearch collection. This is where all of FamilySearch's digitized microfilm and new digital images from its global camera operations are being published. A camera icon appears in the Catalog adjacent to a microfilm listing when it is available digitally.*

*Records include collections that have been indexed by name or published with additional waypoints to help browse the unindexed images.*

*Books include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries, including many books that were previously copied to microfilm.*

*For additional help, see Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org, or watch this how-to video "Where are the digitized records on FamilySearch?"*

*"FamilySearch is committed to meeting customers' needs as much as possible during this transition to digital access," said Diane Loosle, FamilySearch's Director of Patron Services. "We really*

*appreciate the wonderful feedback we have received since the initial announcement. It is helping us better facilitate customer experiences during this next phase.”*

*Loosle said FamilySearch’s over 5,000 family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.*

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Family History Researcher Academy  
English & Welsh Family History Course  
One-Time Payment Offers Expanded  
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In July of this year the Family History Researcher Academy trialled a One-Time Payment offer for those wishing to pay in US Dollars or British Pounds. This gave students a deep saving of US\$88 on the regular price of the 52 lesson English/Welsh Family History Course.

The results were amazing and the trial was a great success – so for a short while more it is being extended and opened up to other currencies as well.

The Family History Researcher Academy course was put together by Nick Thorne from his experience of researching ancestors for private clients and working on various projects for one of the leading British genealogical research websites on behalf of whom Nick regularly has articles published in several of the U.K. family history magazines. He also writes a blog called “Help Me With My Family Tree” under the pen name of The Nosey Genealogist.

The English/Welsh course is ideal for people who would like some help to find their forebears in England and Wales. The modules reveal the many records and

resources to use when researching your ancestors – some of which you may never have thought to explore. The course is now delivered inside a private area of a membership site, where students can complete the modules at their own pace. The English/Welsh course has been written from a practical point of view with contributions coming from professional genealogists, online data experts and by Nick himself.

‘In the past my course has always been available only as a monthly-payment subscription. I’ve listened to what people want and while some prefer the \$1 trial others asked for a discounted one-payment option, and so I’ve been happy to oblige,’ said Nick.

You can now access The Family History Researcher Academy with the following one-payment options.

US\$80 one-time payment. Save an amazing \$88.00

OR take the monthly option with a \$1 or £1 first month trial – so now you’ve got no excuse – hurry, though, as the prices will be going up soon!

To find out more about this offer go to: <https://familyhistoryresearcher.com/fhrmembers/sep2017> and select your currency or offer type from the tabs at the top of the page.

Source: *Dick Eastman*

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HELPFUL HINT  
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Are you missing information when searching online? Well I was until I realized that many records that answer your query may be part of a filmstrip. For example when you go to a census record it is easy to see the preceding and following pages simply by pressing the arrow on the page, right (next) and left (previous) pages will show. This is helpful in seeing who were living next to your ancestors. On death certificates the reverse may have

additional information. Pennsylvania death certificates have a form on the reverse to enter military service information for the deceased. On passport applications this is very important because the applications may have been 2 or more pages, including the passport photograph of the applicant. So don't pass up an opportunity to find more relevant information on the record.

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**The Internet Archive 78 RPM Records Archive is now Online**  
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Want to listen to the music of your parents or grandparents? You can now do so, thanks to the Internet Archive. The Great 78 Project is a new project by the Internet Archive to preserve 78 rpm records that has released about 26,000 records. One new digitized 78 rpm record is being added to the online collection every 10 minutes. More than 200,000 records are expected to be available online when the project is completed. In fact, you can even add your collection of 78 RPM records as well.

You can play the music online or else download any of the records to your computer and save them for later use. Downloads are available in a number of file formats including MP3 and M3U. Images of most of the records are also available.

For example, you can listen to blues legend Muddy Waters singing "I Don't Know Why" recorded in 1954 at <http://bit.ly/2usK8y0>.

78 rpm records were published between about 1898 to the 1950s. The digitized copies of the original 78 rpm records preserve imperfections and the surface noise of the recordings. The recordings were released mostly on Shellac, a fragile predecessor to the LP.

The Internet Archive 78 RPM Records Archive collection may be found by starting at:

<https://archive.org/details/78rpm>. Use the "Search this Collection" box on that page to quickly find what you are looking for.

*Source: Dick Eastman August 2017*

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**Encyclopedia of Genealogy**  
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The Encyclopedia of Genealogy is available to everyone, free of charge. Everyone can also contribute information, again free of charge; again free of charge.

You can search this encyclopedia at any time by clicking on Search in the menus. You can also click on Index to view a list of all the entries.

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a compendium of genealogical tools and techniques. It provides reference information about everything in genealogy except people. Look to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy to provide explanations of how to look up your family tree, explanations of terms found in genealogy research, including obsolete medical and legal terms. It will describe locations where records may be found. It also will describe how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian and other ancestors. In short, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will serve as your standard genealogy reference manual.

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy is created by genealogists like yourself. In fact, YOU can help by adding content: your own knowledge and expertise can help others. If you see anything in this encyclopedia that is incorrect, YOU can change it! If you see anything that is incomplete, YOU can add to it! If you note anything that is missing, YOU can add it! This encyclopedia will succeed because people like you contribute nuggets of information. When enough "nuggets" are added, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will become a gold mine.

Access at: <http://www.eogen.com/>

*A service of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*

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