



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Winter 2017 - Vol. XXIII No. 4

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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: Jackie Vannice
 Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
 Secretary: Nedra Weber
 Treasurer: Joyce Boster
 Auditor: vacant
 Historian: Jeanan Richter
 Library Custodian: Bob Keough
 Membership: Judy Wagner
 Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
 Programs: Bobby O’Neal
 Education & trips: Jackie Vannice
 The Searcher: John Richter
 Refreshments: Eleanore Grieg
 Sound: David Flomerfelt
 Ways & Means: (Interim) Charlotte Santos
 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.org>

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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This year I have enjoyed hearing WIGS members tell of their Genealogy research, DNA results and an occasional story about a Brick Wall.

For a number of years I have been searching for my husband, George’s great grandmother. George and I visited some of his mother’s family in Fayetteville, Tennessee. During that visit, his cousin Clayton talked about their great grandmother who Clayton lived with as a young boy. He told us that she was Native American Indian. I have never been able to find out more about this great grandmother. I had hit a Brick Wall.

Years earlier I found that George’s father’s parents came to Pittsburgh, PA from a part of Russia which is now Ukraine.

This year one of WIGS speakers was Mary Kathryn Kozy. She shared some very interesting information about DNA. I decided to have myself and my son, Michael’s DNA done. Recently we received the results, some of which were rather surprising. As it turns out, Michael

has no American Indian in his heritage but he is 12.3 % Italian.

My DNA had a bit of a surprise too. It turns out that even though I am about 90% German, I also have about 8% of Middle Eastern Heritage, some of that being Ashkenazi Jewish. Looks like the year ahead will bring some fun tearing down my "Brick Wall".

I have enjoyed being your President but I know Jackie Vannice will do a fabulous job as WIGS President for 2018.

Best wishes to each of you for a Merry Christmas and a wonderful researching New Year with a lot of answers and no Brick Walls.

Marjorie Kott

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

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January 12, 2018 Laura Sparr, a founding member and frequent speaker will talk to us about Ships Manifests and their importance for researching our ancestors. As always her talk will be enlightening. Be ready to participate, there will be questions.

February 13, 2018 Speaker and topic will be announced.

March 13,2018 Speaker and topic will be announced.

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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. Meetings start at 12:45 PM.

Monday January 8th:

Maureen MacDonald will discuss 1880-1900:Fill the Gap.

Federal Censuses are often the beginning steps to researching our family history. The gap between 1880-1900 can seem insurmountable, but we have other resources available to us, including State Census, City Directories and other census forms.

Monday February 12th:

Gary Zimmerman from The Fiske Genealogical Library will address researching Western New York, a program which will complement his November program on Hudson Valley Research.

Gary's presentations are always instructive and entertaining. He is one of our most popular speakers and his programs are not to be missed.

Monday March 12th:

Steven Morrison will have 2 30 minute Presentations:

- (1) Favorite Resources for Irish Genealogy
- (2) 1821 Irish Census

Steven Waltz Morrison has been a professional genealogist since 2006. He is a past president of the Olympia Genealogical Society, and has served multiple positions on the board of the Puget Sound chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Steven attained a Masters Degree in Public Administration from The Evergreen State College, where he became an adjunct faculty in the graduate program for seven years. In recent years, he has advanced his genealogical education by attending (and surviving) eight genealogical institutes taught by the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and the British Institute at Salt Lake City.

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2018 WIGS OFFICERS
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Our November 2017 meeting was the occasion for the annual election of officers. Jackie Vannice was elected President, Barbara Green was chosen vice-president, Nedra Weber as secretary and Joyce Boster assumed the position of treasurer. For those of you who may not heard our treasurer Sam Wheeler passed away.

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2018 GENEALOGY CRUISES
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April 15-23, 2018 An 8-Night Eastern Caribbean Genealogy Cruise

This will be an 8-night genealogy cruise, hosted by Gary and Diana Smith. Other speakers will include Donna Moughty, and Dick Eastman. If you would like to join this fun group of genealogy cruisers, you might want to mark April 15-23, 2018, on your calendar.

The 2018 Eastern Caribbean Genealogy Cruise will be on board the Celebrity Equinox and will sail the Eastern Caribbean. It holds 2,850 passengers. The Equinox was voted the "Best Overall Cruise (Large Ship)" by the Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Awards in 2015. You can learn more about the Celebrity Equinox at https://www.celebritycruises.com/cruise-ships/celebrity-equinox.

Departing from Miami, the Celebrity Equinox will stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; and Nassau, Bahamas. It will return to Miami on April 23.

The days at sea will be filled with genealogy presentations. This year's theme is, "Pilgrims, Pioneers, and Aliens Genealogy."

Of course, every day on this cruise will feature all the other activities found on first-class cruise ships. And then there is the food...

For more information about this year's genealogy cruise, look at: http://bit.ly/2xq16P7. Then contact Herb of CruiseEverything at 800-959-7447.

The Alaska cruise, 7-14 September 2018 on Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas

The Alaska cruise, 7-14 September 2018 on Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas will leave from Seattle, visiting Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Alaska and Victoria, British Columbia over 7 days.

The conference program will feature 40-45 talks in three streams from an international team of 12-15 speakers. No talks will occur when in port or during scenic cruising. An optional full day extra seminar is being considered the day before the cruise to offer additional value to the many who will travel from a distance. This will feature leading north American speakers and a different program.

The featured presenters on the cruise are:

Chris Paton (Scotland) - Chris is one of the most sought after presenters in Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Ireland, Canada and the US. He has written many books (including nine for Unlock the Past) and numerous articles for genealogy magazines.

Dick Eastman (United States) - Dick is widely known internationally for his

Eastman's online genealogy newsletter. He has been involved in genealogy for more than 30 years and has worked in the computer industry for over 40 years in hardware, software, and managerial positions.

Other speakers are Dr Janet Few and Caroline Gurney from England, Jan Gow from New Zealand, Shauna Hicks, Eric and Rosemary Kopittke, Mike Murray and Helen Smith from Australia and Cyndi Ingle from the United States. More will be announced.

For details, bookings and registration of interest go to <http://www.unlockthepastcruises.com/alaska>. US Passport holders have the option of booking with our US travel agent partner, Cruise Planners: O'Connell Travel.

5th Annual Heritage Books Genealogy Conference & Cruise to Bermuda Sep. 2—9, 2018 on Celebrity's Summit leaving from Cape Liberty, NJ

Join us for an educational and fun-filled voyage on the cruise ship Celebrity Summit when it leaves from Cape Liberty, New Jersey, and sails to King's Wharf, Bermuda, while we learn about genealogical research methods, sources, and tools from some of the foremost speakers in those fields — Audrey Collins; Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG; Paul Milner; David Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA; and Craig R. Scott, CG.

You will be among friends, old and new, as well as among fellow researchers from around the world as you soak up new knowledge and skills through a lecture series that rivals any regional or national genealogy conference, but at one remarkably low price that includes meals,

taxes, port charges, onboard entertainment, and conference events!

As popular as our lecture series is, many veterans of our conference value something else even more — the opportunity to share a meal with a world-class genealogist or to schedule one-on-one time with the experts to discuss their specific research challenges. Come armed with your records and be prepared to hear about new resources, repositories, finding aids, and research methods that will help you to break down those brick walls. Some people find these private consultations alone to be worth the trip!

To learn more or book your cabin today, please visit: <http://www.hbgenealogycruises.com/bermuda-2018>

Sponsored by Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

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WHO OWNS YOUR ONLINE GENEALOGY INFORMATION?
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A significant number of genealogists store personal genealogy information online. This raises an interesting question: Who owns the information you post online? In some cases, the information is actually owned by the internet site where the information is posted regardless of who posted the information.

There are three main ways in which data generated by genealogists may find its way online: through family tree programs that store personal information on centralized databases, through the results of genetic genealogy tests and through social networking sites. Facebook, the largest social networking forum is the latest

internet site to attempt to take control of personal data. First mentioned on the blog The Consumerist, and subsequently picked up by the New York Times, Facebook quietly attempted to revise their Terms and Conditions to give themselves what appeared to be unlimited rights to any user's personal Facebook postings. They backed down a few days later and went back to their previous Terms and Conditions, but only because there was intense public opposition to their plans.

On the internet, there is always a tradeoff between wanting to make information available to friends and family and wanting to protect personal privacy. Unfortunately, many genealogists often fail to recognize how much personal privacy they may be giving up on the internet. For example, can you remove family tree information once it is posted on the internet? Who owns the rights to the data from the results of genetic genealogy tests? What happens if you want to remove a comment you posted on a genealogy web site or blog? Are the Privacy Statements and Terms and Conditions clearly posted? What do they say? Are there even Privacy Statements and Terms and Conditions? These are the kinds of questions that genealogists often do not ask themselves.

Social networking sites can be particularly challenging places for an individual to attempt to maintain privacy. Consider the following not-so-hypothetical example of how someone's privacy can be inadvertently breached: you are careful with your online profile to not mention too many personal details about yourself. Now, along comes a friend, who posts the following comment: 'It's your 60th birthday on Tuesday. Let's go out and celebrate this weekend.' Seems innocuous enough? Not really. By looking at the timestamp of the posting, anyone could easily back calculate to figure out your date of birth. Now, a valuable piece of personal

information is suddenly in the public domain. This is a relatively simple example, but it shows how easily someone's privacy can be violated on a social network site. Google has written a fascinating white paper on privacy concerns on social networking sites. Definitely a good read for any genealogist thinking about these issues.

Genealogy In Time Magazine

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**FREE APP TO HELP VISTORS IN
DUBLIN TRACE THEIR IRISH
ANCESTORS**

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Ancestor Network, Ireland's leading provider of professional genealogy and probate research, has just released at RootsTech 2017 a free, new and interactive Irish Genealogy Research App; Your Dublin Map Guide to Irish Genealogy and History Sources. This 'Ancestor Network' App displays a list of the leading Dublin-based libraries, archives, research centres, historic sites and museums.

These are linked to a detailed interactive map of Dublin containing supplemental information such as physical and web address location, contact details, and opening hours.

This App functions as your historical and genealogical guide in navigating through the streets of Dublin and to make the most of your time visiting or researching in Ireland.

Within the App, there is also an Irish sources guide for visitors and researchers to be able to easily discover where to locate birth, marriage and death records, church records, land records, military records, prisons and legal records, newspapers and graveyards, information on emigration, workhouses, maps and place names. This list is also interactive so that you can link to any of these sources websites to learn more about each one.

You can easily download this free app from the App Store by simply searching Ancestor Network.

The App was developed in Dublin by Ancestor Network in objective C and XCode, using Apple map and *is compatible on IOS 9+ working on all Apple devices iPhone and iPad.*

John Hamrock, Managing Director of Ancestor Network Ltd., noted, “With our team of genealogists and historians providing advice to roots tourists in Ireland over the years, we noted that visitors would benefit with having an interactive tool at their fingertips with a detailed map on where to locate the key repositories and what records are available in each. This free app is a great resource for visitors and locals alike in Dublin find that elusive ancestor.”

Hamrock added, “We encourage users and those centres listed on our app to provide feedback on how the app can be improved even further. I am delighted to be participating this week at RootsTech in Salt Lake City from 8 – 11 February 2017 to introduce our app to the genealogy and technology community here, particularly at today’s very appropriate Innovator Summit. RootsTech is the largest genealogy/technology trade event in the world with thousands of visitors and hundreds of exhibitors and speakers. RootsTech 2017 is a perfect time to launch our innovative Irish genealogy App. Last, but not least, we would like to extend a special thanks to Aspire Digital in Dublin who helped us with the design and functionality of the App.”

About Ancestor Network

Ancestor Network, www.ancestornetwork.ie, is made up of the largest team of experienced, qualified, professional and expert genealogists across the island of Ireland. Collectively, their genealogists have over 200 years’ research experience in Ireland and abroad. For the past six years, Ancestor Network has provided genealogy research advice to

visitors of the National Library of Ireland. Ancestor Network, though its affiliate, Flyleaf Press, is Ireland’s leading provider of published guides on how to trace your Irish roots. Ancestor Network was the exclusive genealogy researcher for The Genealogy Roadshow, first televised on RTÉ and produced by Big Mountain Productions in Ireland, and the antecedent of the popular US version televised on PBS.

Contact Information

John Hamrock Email:
john.hamrock@ancestornetwork.ie
Web: www.ancestornetwork.ie
App: Ancestor Network
Twitter: @AncestorNetwork

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Using the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules
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Almost all experienced genealogists have used the census records to find ancestors. However, how many of us have used the Census Mortality Schedules? In fact, I have to wonder how many of us even know what the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules are? And why would we find them to be valuable?

In 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, and 1900, the U.S. census enumerators were required to collect all the normal census information plus even more: information about all persons dying within the 12 months preceding the census taking. These lists are known as the “Mortality Schedules”.

Mortality data can prove very useful in your research. For instance, for several years I suspected that a man found in the Massachusetts census records was my great-great-grandfather. I hadn’t found proof, but the circumstantial evidence was almost overwhelming: he had the correct name, lived in the same area that my later, proven ancestors lived, had the correct

number of children as mentioned in a family history book, and more. In fact, I really wanted to prove my descent from this Revolutionary War soldier who spent the winter at Valley Forge in the Continental Army under the command of George Washington. (Most Revolutionary soldiers served in the militia, not in the Continental Army.) I searched hard for the proof.

The Revolutionary War veteran was found in every U.S. census from 1790 through 1840, all the years that only listed the Head of Household. He was there every year, living in the same town, living with numerous children in the early 1800s and then, as the years went by, with fewer and fewer children. While he was listed from 1790 through 1840, he was missing in the 1850 and later census records. Unfortunately, the 1850 census was the first U.S. census to list all household members. For several years, I went looking elsewhere for information about him.

One day, early in my genealogy “career,” I discovered the Mortality Schedule for 1850. I looked and, sure enough, the man I had been looking for was listed as having passed away in 1849. That explained why he was not listed in the 1850 and later census records. Even more interesting was the information provided: name, sex, age, color, widowed or not, place of birth, month of death, occupation, and cause of death.

The 1850 Mortality Schedule proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that this man was NOT my ancestor. The place of birth was not what I had expected. Armed with the date of death, I was then able to find an obituary in an 1849 newspaper for this man that documented his war record and listed the family members who survived him. This was definitely not my man.

Was this a success story? I would say, “Yes.” Disproving information is as valuable as or sometimes even more valuable than proving it. If nothing else, disproving the theory freed my research efforts to look elsewhere. I was no longer “barking up the wrong tree.”

Mortality Schedules are not available for all states and years. The 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses contained questions regarding those who died in the twelve months prior to the enumeration. The answers were compiled in separate “Mortality Schedules” that typically are kept separate from the census returns. The Mortality Schedules list persons who died between 1 June and 31 May of the year prior to the census.

Enumerators were asked to record a lot of information about individuals who died in the year previous to the census. The 1850 schedule, for example, includes information about individuals who died between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850. In 1850 and 1860, entries included the name of the deceased, their age at death, sex, color, status (free or slave), marital status (married or widowed), place of birth (state, territory or county), the month of death, occupation, disease or cause of death, and the number of days the individual was ill. In 1870, a new question asked if the father and/or mother were of foreign birth, but no longer included how many days the individual was ill. The 1880 census added categories for the place of birth of the deceased’s mother and father, how long the deceased had been a resident of the county, where the disease was contracted if not at the place of death, and the name of the attending physician. In both 1870 and 1880, a family number is included which ties the entry back to a specific entry in the population enumeration (and vice versa).

The 1850 and 1860 Mortality Schedules may be the only records available listing a

slave ancestor. However, slave deaths apparently were underreported; many who are known to have died within the timeframe covered were never recorded in the Mortality Schedules.

The 1890 Mortality Schedules were recorded but were later destroyed in the same fire that destroyed the rest of the census records. In 1900, a Mortality Schedule was compiled, statistics were collected, and then original records were later deliberately destroyed by order of an act of Congress. Some years later, a copy of the 1900 Mortality Schedule for Minnesota was discovered at the Minnesota Historical Society and subsequently was published. This is the only known surviving 1900 mortality schedule for any state.

Here is a list of states that have some census mortality schedules available for various years from 1850-1885 — not all states are covered for all years. You'll need to check the microfilm catalog to see which years are covered:

Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida (1885 State Census only/not all counties included), Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico (1885 Territorial Census only), North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont (1870 only), Virginia, and Washington.

Over the years, various local and state genealogy societies have published indexes to many of the mortality schedules. Similarly, county indexes and transcriptions may also be available, mostly published only on paper.

It is important to remember that the information is available only for the year immediately preceding the census, and even then, the information was probably under-reported. One estimate claims that 20 to 40 percent of deaths were not included. However, no one can verify that estimate. Of course, if your ancestor died in the nine years preceding each Mortality Schedule, he or she will never be listed.

One advantage of Mortality Records is that they normally list the cause of death. Of course, you will find the usual causes associated with old age, but many records will list the cause of death as murdered, struck by a train, gas explosion (houses were often illuminated by gas lights), and similar causes of premature deaths. In such cases, a trip to view local newspaper obituaries often provides additional clues about the death as well as lists of surviving relatives. The newspaper obituaries also often name the parents of the deceased, even if they passed away years earlier.

Mortality Schedules can be important to your research. As in my earlier example, the Mortality Schedules can provide detailed information about individuals who were deceased at the time of a normal census. For slave ancestors, Mortality Schedules may be the only record still available for many individuals.

Many states did not compile death records until the late 1800s or early 1900s. In those cases, Mortality Schedules may be the only record that documents a death date and provides any supporting information.

Mortality Schedules are valuable records for genealogists, records that are often overlooked.

The U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index, 1850-1880 is available online at no charge on FamilySearch.org at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1420441?collectionNameFilter=false>, On MortalitySchedules.com at <http://www.mortality-schedules.com/>, on Mortality-Schedules.com (a different web site with a similar name) at <http://www.mortality-schedules.com/>, and on Ancestry.com (limited to Ancestry subscribers only) at: <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3530>.

Have you checked the Mortality Schedules?

Dick Eastman November 31, 2017