



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Fall 2018 - 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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- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
- Secretary: vacant
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The rain is beginning once again. No more hours and hours of watering vegetables and flowers each day. Although I didn't get a huge amount of genealogy work done this summer, I'm more than anxious to start again, aren't you?

We have a lot going on in the next few months - elections, Christmas Holiday Party (now's a good time to begin formulating what you would like to share), and as always, we look forward to our speakers each month. How nice it will be to see one another again this next week and share what family discoveries you have made in the past few months. See you all soon!

Jackie Vannice

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**IN THE FUTURE, YOU MIGHT LIVE
FOREVER ONLINE**

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Gregg Pascal Zachary is a professor of practice in Arizona State University's School for the Future of Innovation. He is now talking about what you might leave behind forever, after your death. For better or for worse, everything you post online as well as everything that others post online about you might be collected in one place to represent you, forever.

Considering the drop in price of data storage hardware in the past few decades and assuming that trend continues for a long time, we can assume that every scrap of information about you can be preserved in the future for approximately the price of a postage stamp.

In an interview published in the ASUnow web site, Zachary says:

“In this context, we’re talking about permanent, enduring legacies. ... You die, I die, and you our digital ‘footprints’ live on — in whatever forms the techno-scientists create. In the past, individuals bequeathed letters, photos, articles, books to those they left behind. Today, as we live we spawn digital artifacts — and these are what we increasingly leave behind. In the future organizing and presenting these artifacts will be part of the process of revolutionizing the concept of life after death. Our physical bodies won’t persist but valued aspects of our insights and wisdom can.”

You can learn a lot more in the article at <https://asunow.asu.edu/20180803-creativity-digital-immortality>.

One thought: be careful about those snide comments you are thinking of posting online. Your great-great-grandchildren

might read them! What impression will they have of your comments? Internet trolls beware!

Dick Eastman 7 August 2018

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**HAGERSTOWN/WASHINGTON
COUNTY, MARYLAND MARRIAGE
RECORDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

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PDF images of marriage records from 1886-1970 for Washington County, Maryland have recently been added to the Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland. However, indexes to the names in the marriage records are available only from 1861 to 1919 and also from 1927 to 1949. The records were compiled, indexed, and edited by Marsha L. Fuller, Certified Genealogist and now are available to everyone online free of charge.

Besides being a large town in its own right, Hagerstown, along with nearby cities Martinsburg and Charles Town, WV, served as a popular place for runaway weddings for Virginians from the northern and central Shenandoah Valley. In other words, couples who did not meet the age requirements or other requirements for marriage in Virginia often went to Hagerstown or nearby cities and towns for quick weddings where the legal requirements were not as strict. You can access the Washington County, Maryland Marriage Records by starting at <https://www.washcolibrary.org/?q=marriage-records-pdfs>.

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ELLIS ISLAND RECORDS

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As director of the American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island,

Jackie Schalk often works with visitors who are sure their ancestors arrived at Ellis Island in the mid-1800s.

She used to have to break the news that not only didn't that ancestor land at Ellis Island, which opened in 1892, but the center didn't have passenger records from before Ellis Island opened.

Now that has changed.

FamilySearch and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation have announced that searchable New York passenger lists for the years 1820 to 1892 are now available free on the Ellis Island website.

Full, Free Records Coverage for New York Passengers

With this addition, the Ellis Island website now offers full coverage of New York's era as a major port of immigration, 1820 to 1957.

"These records are going to open up opportunity for so many people who visit. I can't wait," Schalk says.

The joint project also has placed an index to the records on the free FamilySearch website. The index links to record images on the Ellis Island site. On either website, you'll need a free registration to view matches to your search results.

Searching for Immigrant Ancestors to New York Schalk cautions that New York passenger lists from the 1800s aren't the easiest to search. That's in part because they're not actually ships' passenger lists, but customs lists.

A fire on Ellis Island in 1897 burned all the New York passenger lists stored on the island.

Schalk explains that the 1800s New York passenger records on the Ellis Island website, and on Ancestry, FamilySearch

and elsewhere, are actually customs lists. The ship's purser recorded customs list alongside the passenger lists, and delivered them to US customs agents on arrival.

"These records were kept for tax purposes," Schalk says of customs lists. They're full of abbreviated first names (Patk for Patrick), generalized places of origin (such as Hannover, a historical region, instead of Schapen, a village), and missing occupations. All can make it difficult to recognize your ancestor's listing.

Not to mention the spelling variants, handwriting and indexing errors that are part of any collection of old records.

Here's an example of a New York customs list from 1853. Thomas Frost, the 26-year-old plumber (sixth down from the top), is my third-great-grandfather:

Customs lists don't have column headings on every page. You have to go back to the first page to see the ship name, arrival date and column headings:

Tips to Identify Your Immigrant Ancestor on Ships' Lists

Family stories passed down might not be true. Your ancestor may have arrived in a different year and/or port from what you thought. Explore about migration patterns for people of your ancestor's nationality or ethnicity, especially those who settled near your family in the United States.

Research the immigrant thoroughly in US records to learn as much identifying information as you can. This also helps you learn when and where she arrived.

Look especially for records such as naturalizations, passports and obituaries. But do keep in mind that your ancestor's memory may have been off when these later records were created. These are some of the records that led me to information

about my ancestors' immigration and birthplaces.

Trouble finding your ancestor on a passenger list? Search for people he might have traveled with, such as parents, husband or wife, children, in-laws and neighbors.

Broaden your searches and use wildcards to allow for variation in arrival year, name spellings, and travelers' reported age. You even can leave out the name and search on other parameters.

Many immigrants traveled back home (sometimes, more than once) to visit, retrieve family, or because they never intended to stay in the US. Check later, more-detailed passenger lists, in case your ancestor followed this pattern.

Search Ellis Island's entire collection of passenger records for free at the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation website. You can view (but not download) passenger record images. Ordering high-quality prints of records supports the foundation's work.

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**THE GENETICS OF COSUIN
MARRIAGE**
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In much of the world, consanguineous marriage between cousins is very common. For most Americans, however, marriage between cousins is at best a punchline, at worst a taboo. In many states, it is illegal for first cousins to get married. The objections are ostensibly based on the risk of genetic problems. But is there an actual risk?

In 2005, Owen Dyer reported in BMJ that "A Labour MP has called for a public debate on the genetic risks of marriages between first cousins in Britain's Pakistani community, after reports of an unusually high rate of autosomal recessive disorders among children near her constituency. Ann

Cryer, MP for Keighley in West Yorkshire, said on the BBC television programme Newsnight: "We have to stop this tradition of first cousin marriages."

The genetic risks in question are related to something called unmasking. It goes something like this: We each receive one copy of each gene from each of our parents. Thus, we inherit two versions of each gene (called alleles); one is dominant and one recessive. For a recessive gene to actually manifest in an individual, both copies of the gene must be the recessive allele. If an individual inherits only one recessive allele of the gene, the individual is considered a carrier who can pass on the illness to their offspring. But when an individual inherits two copies of a dangerous recessive allele, the gene is said to be unmasked and inherit the condition.

Cousin pedigree

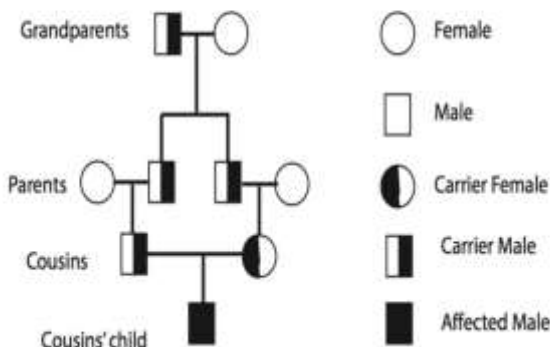
Each carrier has a 50% chance of passing on the dangerous allele to their child, but when a gene is rare in a population, few individuals are carriers. Trouble is, cousins share one set of grandparents. While the odds of either grandparent being a carrier of a rare allele are low, if one grandparent is a carrier, then there is a 50% chance that each of their children (the cousins' parents) are also carriers. So the risk of a child inheriting two copies of a dangerous allele is elevated compared to non-related marriages since they have a greater chance of inheriting the same recessive allele from their common ancestors.

As Dyer writes, British researchers formally crunched the numbers and determined that for any given individual, with much variation, a marriage between first cousins roughly doubles the rate of unmasking compared to nonrelative marriages (~6% instead of ~3%). Nevertheless, British authorities determined that despite the increased risk,

most children of cousin marriage are healthy. And at least one doctor noted that “it was counter productive to single out a culture and that such an approach risked alienating the Pakistani community.” She added: ““We know that the risk of Down’s syndrome increases with advancing maternal age, but we don’t see [urge] mothers to have children younger.””

Each carrier has a 50% chance of passing on the dangerous allele to their child, but when a gene is rare in a population,

A hypothetical example where a pair of married first cousins share a grandfather who is a carrier of a harmful recessive. Each carrier has a 50% chance of passing on the recessive allele; in this hypothetical it always happened. The probability of anyone else being a carrier is the allele’s prevalence in the population.



James MacDonald August 20, 2018 JStor Daily

Do you remember....

- Coffee 5 cents a cup
- Ice cream 5 cents a scoop
- Haircut 25 cents

The Moral Threat of Bicycles in the 1890s

The bicycle craze of the 19th century, in which both men and women participated, was seen as a moral affront by church leaders.

If you’re an American adult who regularly rides a bicycle, you might feel a tiny sense of moral superiority about getting exercise and reducing your carbon footprint. But in the 1890s, the moral discourse around bike riding was very different, and much more fraught. As Michael Taylor explained in a 2010 paper, Protestant authorities saw cycling as a significant threat to morality, and tried to mold the sport into a Christian activity.

Cycling women often wore bloomers that were much like men’s pants and were widely seen as indecent.

Up until the invention of the modern “safety” bicycle in 1887, few women rode the high wheel bicycles of the previous generation. But in the 1890s, a “cycling craze” offered a new kind of mobility to many young women.

Bikes facilitated unchaperoned dates—even elopements. Just as troubling to some moralists of the day, cycling women often wore bloomers, widely seen as indecent, that were much like men’s pants. The Women’s Rescue League of Boston even claimed that, following the closing of brothels, prostitutes were riding bikes to reach their clients.

Another charge against the cycling craze was that people were spending their Sundays—often the only work-free day of the week—on bike rides rather than at church. Already, male church attendance had been on the decline. As a sport open to both women and men, cycling threatened to leave preachers with congregations made up of only the sick and the elderly.

One Indianapolis minister started a riding group with young members of the church, only to be censured by older congregants for his “frivolous bicycle ways.”

At the same time, men’s cycling raised moral questions that were common to sports in general. Religious leaders worried

about unhealthy, vicious competition. Taylor quotes a Presbyterian newspaper reporting on a race in 1897 in which one racer was “kept constantly loaded with cocaine.” Another pushed himself so hard that he nearly lost consciousness.

Yet, for the “muscular Christian” movement that started late in the nineteenth century, bicycles were also a useful technology. Like other sports, cycling was a way to build courage, determination, and strength. As one minister told his congregants, cycling could help them achieve “the very highest, fullest and completest physical, mental and spiritual culture.” Cycling advocates also celebrated the sport as an alternative to saloons, gaming houses, and other morally objectionable forms of recreation.

Cycling opened rifts between and within churches. One Indianapolis minister started a riding group with young members of the church, only to be censured by older congregants for his “frivolous bicycle ways.”

Taylor writes that the moral controversy over bicycles ended as quickly as it began. By the early 1900s, the cycling craze wound down. The price of bicycles fell, transforming their image into a working-class mode of transportation rather than an accessory for leisure. Meanwhile, the automobile replaced the bicycle as a subject of religious concern. And within a few decades, Taylor writes, “it was hard to imagine a more inoffensive means of transportation and entertainment.”

Livia Gershon February 22, 2016 JSTOR Daily

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**CLASS, PLEASE TAKE OUT YOU'RE
YOUR NO. 2 PENCIL....**
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One school supply that is common to most students is the classic, yellow-coated No. 2

pencil. For centuries, the pencil was such a crucial part of school students that many would

use theirs until only a tiny stub remained. In the 18th and 19th centuries there was a pencil

grip called an ‘extender’ that enabled use of the last bit of a pencil so as not to waste what was, at the time, a precious commodity.

I have used yellow-coated No. 2 pencils to write names of family members in my family group sheets since I began genealogy research years ago. Other than the store, I had never considered where these pencils originated. The first person I found was an aunt on my husband’s mother’s side. It was she who led me to many other family members. Aunt

Florence lived in Shelbyville and worked at the Musgrave Pencil Co in the 1930’s. Yellow pencils were manufactured at that facility in Shelbyville, Bedford County, TN. It was named The Pencil City. James Musgrove moved to Tennessee in 1916 to what he called ‘the perfect place’ for the pencil industry and it is still there today.

Margie Kott

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**ROOTSWEB URL’S BEGIN
WORKING AGAIN**
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Big news for genealogists! Websites hosted by the internet’s oldest and largest free genealogy community, RootsWeb, have started to come back online! Here are the details.

It’s been 7 months since RootsWeb was made unavailable after the company’s security team discovered issues with the website. At that time, Ancestry.com’s Information Security Team received a message indicating a security researcher had found a file which contained email addresses, username and password combinations from a RootsWeb.com

server. Ancestry.com's research has confirmed that the files do contain information related to users of Rootsweb's surname list information, a service that the company had elected to retire earlier in 2017.

What's currently working

On August 27, 2018, the RootsWeb blog was updated with a post announcing that homepages and freepages URLs are working again. It does appear that, at least at the moment, some homepages are actually still down, as a read through the comments on the blog indicates that many users are still unable to access their pages. But what we do know is that webpages hosted by the site are beginning to come back up, leading to much rejoicing amongst personal users and genealogical societies alike.

Is your hosted website still unavailable?

According to the RootsWeb homepage, they are bringing hosted websites back in phases.

RootsWeb has identified about 600 USGENWEB sites to bring back first. Owners of these sites should have received an email with instructions on how to reset their password and get to their content. These sites are now available from the appropriate USGENWEB page. If you believe you should have been contacted, please contact: Questions about USGENWEB. Please include the name of your site and any other information you have.

Other sites will be reinstated upon request. To make a request, go to Restore Website Form.

For those that would just like to download their websites contents from RootsWeb, go to Request Download Links.

Not familiar with RootsWeb?

RootsWeb is the Internet's oldest and largest free genealogy community. Their award winning resources and databases, which include free web space, mailing lists, and message boards, are utilized by societies and individuals alike. Whether you're organizing the family reunion, writing about your family's history or trying to track down lost kin, you need a website. Let us walk you through creating one in our Build a Family Website Home Study Course! (Use the link below for details. This is a cost item.)

Ashlee Peck September 8, 2018

https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/news-blogs/genealogy_insider/breaking-news-rootsweb-urls-begin-working-again/

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ROOTS TECH LONDON
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Have you heard the news? RootsTech has announced a second conference for 2019, in London, England! Here's what you need to know.

We've been anxiously awaiting big news from RootsTech, and their announcement certainly didn't disappoint! On Tuesday, August 28, the company shared that in addition to the incredibly popular RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, they will be adding a conference in London for 2019. In their email announcement, RootsTech shared:

"We are excited to further position RootsTech as a global community for everyone to discover their family and deepen their sense of belonging that we all yearn for," said Jen Allen, event director.

When and where

RootsTech London will take place October 24-26, 2019, at the ExCeL London

Convention Centre. Registration for RootsTech London will open in late February 2019. To receive the latest updates and announcements, visit rootstech.org/London.

What you can expect

3 exciting days of discovery

150 hands-on lectures on topics such as DNA, records, and preserving family memories

Test out the latest tech in the exhibition hall, enjoy world-class entertainment, and much more!

Featured speaker

Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster, and historian best known for his work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* series. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, director for the University of London's Senate House Library, and a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee. He is currently the President of the Federation of Family History Societies and sits on the Executive Committee of the Community Archives and Heritage Group.

Stay tuned, we will be sharing more updates on the event as they become available!

Take a strategic approach to tracing your British ancestry with the tips, resources, and genealogy research techniques in this hour-long webinar. Find records collections and overcome British brick walls. Get started today!

What You'll Learn

What records are available and what they'll tell you about your British ancestors

How to locate and access British records, both online and off

Common challenges in British genealogy and strategies to overcome them

Unique and lesser-known research techniques for pinpointing your British ancestors

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/news-blogs/genealogy-industry/genealogy-events/rootstech/rootstech-announces-2019-london-conference/>

===== **PASSPORT APPLICATIONS** =====

Many Americans traveling internationally today don't give much thought to the passport requirement; it's simply what's necessary to travel beyond the borders of the US. However, retaining a passport to travel abroad was not always a requirement, and our ancestors often came and went during most of American history, pre-WWII, without a passport. Until 1941, it was only during brief periods during the Civil War and WWI that a passport was mandatory. However, if our ancestors did apply for a passport, the information found therein could be the key to overcoming the place of origin brick wall. An American passport confirmed American citizenship. As such, naturalized immigrants were more prone to retaining one even when they didn't need one, as it provided tangible proof of citizenship.

The Department of State has made US passport applications available from 1795 to March 1925 through the National Archives; these have been digitized at Ancestry.com. For applications after April 1925, one can send a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request to the Department of State.

HELP

We need members to step up and volunteer for Board of Directors and Committee positions. Active participation helps all. Fresh ideas will only make WIGS better.