



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Spring 2019 - Vol. XXV No.1

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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.: Vacant
- Secretary: Cathi Mann-Fisher
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- Auditor: vacant
- Historian: Jeanan Richter
- Library Custodian: Vacant
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- Education & trips: Pat Gardner
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Vacant
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Vacant
- Webmaster: Jackie Vannice

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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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Sometimes Insight Comes In Unexpected Places.

The value of family in our present culture is often taken for granted; so when I read this, it not only made me smile, it made me want to share it. This was likely written in the late 1940’s in Ohio by one of my cousins at the age of 8 years. I came across it while reading some family research on my father’s side.

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people’s little boys and girls. A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys and they talk about fishing and stuff like that.

Grandmothers don’t have to do anything except to be there. Usually they’re old, so they shouldn’t play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend horse is, and have a lot of dimes ready. Or if they take us for walks, they should slow down past pretty leaves and caterpillars. They should never say, “Hurry up”.

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandmothers don't talk baby talk like visitors do because it is hard to understand. When they read to us they don't skip, or mind if it is the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

Marjorie Kott

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

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MARCH 12, 2019 The American Association of University Women will have a presentation on **WOMEN IN HISTORY**.

April 9, 2019 Mary Cosely will do a presentation on deoxyribonucleic acid.

May 14, 2019 We will have a presentation from the Washington State Archives.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

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SVGS Spring SEMINAR - Nordic Roots 2019

March 23, 9:00am – 3:30pm
First United Methodist Church, 1607 E Division St, Mt Vernon, WA 98274, USA

Come enjoy the presentations by our two speakers, Torolf Torgersen, Viking Historian, and Evelyn Roehl, Swedish Genealogist. Torolf's program covers Viking influences on our culture and some insight into Nordic names. Evelyn will talk about finding Swedish records here in the

US and for ancestors back in Sweden. This is a **SGVS** special event. Registration is online through our website: skagitvalleygenealogy.org. Please look for the tab on the website information bar.

SVGS Meeting Programs.
Burlington Public Library, 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington, WA 98233,

Sat, April 13, 1pm – 3pm

Evernote for Genealogists

by Janet O'Connor Camarata
The software tool -- Evernote -- can be a very valuable note keeping, storage, file cabinet for genealogy researchers. Capture those records, files, photos all in one Evernote location and make your life/research easier. Your research will be revolutionized and your record-keeping easier to access and sort through.

Sat, May 11, 1pm – 3pm,

HOW TO READ A CEMETERY --
SVGS Publications Committee

Genealogy Societies across the country, including SVGS, gather and publish the information found on local cemetery tombstones. These cemetery books are helpful resources for families who do not live in the area but wish to know what is written on deceased family member's gravestone.

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IMMIGRATION PORTS OF ENTRY

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If you can't find immigration records in New York ports, try other ports...

Major U.S. Immigrant Ports:

Castle Garden - It operated until the U.S. Office of Immigration opened the newly built Ellis Island in 1892.

Ellis Island - In the Upper New York Bay, it was the gateway for over 12 million

immigrants to the U.S. as the United States' busiest immigrant inspection station for over 60 years from 1892 until 1954.

Philadelphia - In the 1800s, they came through Philadelphia and headed to Texas or the Midwest.

Boston

Baltimore

New Orleans - Coming through New Orleans during Civil War times avoided pressure to join the Union Army; although doing so meant quick naturalization. In the 1700s, most of our German ancestors came from Rotterdam through New Orleans.

San Francisco

Galveston

Canada - Canada was easier and less expensive. By the 1890s, Canadian steamship companies advertised that passage through Canada was a way to avoid the US government's rigorous immigration inspections. Look for records in all these ports.

Quebec City, Quebec

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Saint John, New Brunswick

North Sydney, Nova Scotia

Vancouver, British Columbia

Victoria, British Columbia

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WRITTEN IN STONE
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Just because grave markers are usually carved in stone does not mean it is correct. Likewise not everything on any written records, including birth/death certificates is 100% accurate.

Over the past few months I've looked at over 2000 death certificates and became amazed as to the possible errors. No matter the record you are viewing ALWAYS remember that they were prepared by humans, the person writing the information as well as the source of the information. Death certificates can be misleading because of the informant providing the

information may not always have the correct information. Also the person ordering the grave marker may provide incorrect information. In my examples that follow I am using names from the area where I was born and raised. Most people are of German Ancestry. (Read Pennsylvania Dutch). I suspect that other nationalities have similar results.

I used Ancestry for these searches but am sure if you use other search platforms the same or similar suggestions will apply. When doing these searches I update a database and check the Find A Grave memorials. This is quite easy to do from the Legacy program because they have a Find A Grave link button which will look for a memorial for the person with whom you are working. More about this later.

Some examples:

Given name(s) may be in different order than on birth certificate, they may be the name the person was addressed by during their lifetime (frequently a derivative i.e. Lizzie for Elizabeth, Bob for Robert, Jack for John, etc.) Sometimes the marker had first initial and full middle name. When searching for a surname be creative if you are not immediately finding the person you are seeking.

Sometimes the given names may be reversed.

When searching for death certificates you may have to search for Mrs. John Richter. When searching in Ancestry the results frequently have a link at the top of the search results for a family tree. I've found death certificates in these links but not in the other underlying search results.

Surname Spelling:

This is a real challenge. I have one family that has spelled their surname 4 different ways: Reigle, Riegle, Reigel & Riegel. At times I've seen one individual's records having different spellings. As time passes some families change the spelling of their

names. On documents prepared by others the name may be spelled phonetically or in a different form, i.e. Row vs Rowe. The geographical area may cause surnames to be spelled differently.

Other examples of surnames spelling varying

Koppenhaver & Koppenheffer

Lupold vs Lubold

Wert vs Wirt

Snyder vs Schneider

Swab vs Schwab

While searching records frequently there is only a middle initial. For men who were alive during WW I & II the draft cards almost always had the full middle name.

Frequently grave markers will have only middle initials. On a female marker it is not infrequent that the middle initial is for her maiden name. If a woman has been married more than once and the middle name may have been her married name when she married her last husband.

Regarding birth and death places sometimes people record where the individual last lived, not where their actual birth/death occurred. You will see this in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) where the last residence is listed, not the actual place of death. If the event occurred on a farm near a town the place of death may be recorded as the nearest town and not the actual political area, i.e. township/parish/county/province. Many deaths occur in hospitals in the area where people are living. As you know when we tell people where we are from we usually use a geographical point to give them a general area rather than the more specific location.

DATES

Birthdates are usually on death certificates. Again these dates may be incorrect, especially if being provided by other than immediate family. However should we

over obsess about the exact date? What are the chances of two people with the same full name, including married name for women, having the exact birth and death date? On some of the earlier death certificates, early 1900's, a lot of the information was from family lore. The same as for location.

While researching do not forget to use the other suggested links such as:

Marriages- approximate birth year, parents names, marital status, date and place of marriage, official performing marriage.

Census - no need for me to explain

US City Directories – Provide occupation, spouse, residence, sometimes others living at the area who may be of the same family. Be sure to check the actual physical address, the directory may say Harrisburg and often the transcribers list Harrisburg as the address for everyone in the directory when in fact the address is in a neighboring community which is a sub-section of the directory.

SSDI Social Security Death Index – date of death, sometime birthdate and last residence (not necessarily the place of death).

Various Military Records

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FIND A GRAVE
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This platform can be a treasure trove of Information, and disinformation. When researching deaths I like to include reviewing this site. [Caution – be suspect of information unless you can verify it from another creditable source.] Many memorials have only the information that is on the grave marker. Many people enjoy taking photos of headstones and posting them on FAG. This is really great but the

information is limited to what is on the stone. Some people read the daily obituaries and establish memorials but add very little information. For those of you who are unfamiliar with FAG the individual information that may be found includes: birth/death dates and places, cemetery location, biographical information, links to parents, siblings and children, marker transcription, photos, flowers/notes, links to others with the same surname, plot in the cemetery both by number and possibly GPS. I have family memorials which span 4-6 generations thru embedded links. If you find a memorial without a grave photo you can request a volunteer to take a photo.

I am a great believer that I owe others my time to update genealogy information as best I can. Our hobby is a collaborative endeavor, everyone adding to the knowledge base. When making suggestions to FAG memorials I hope to provide my small part. I always try to link individuals with their parents. When you do this you make the family chain longer and better. This also links the siblings already on the parents' memorial together. So adding one set of parents to a memorial could add many siblings together thus broadening the chain. It increases your chances of finding even more relatives.

I would be derelict if I did mention BILLIONGRAVES.COM. This is another site dealing with cemeteries and grave markers. It is different from Find A Grave in that it only has memorials with photos of the markers. The photos must have embedded GPS information to be posted on this site. The result of this is when you visit the individual's memorial you can see exactly where the grave is located. The basic site is free. There is an enhanced access that is fee based (\$28/yr). When you use this feature one of the biggest advantages is you can see a list of graves surrounding the one in which you are interested.

I just visited the site and it only has Maple Leaf Cemetery listed. So if anyone is interested in doing photos in Fircrest and Pioneer Cemeteries you can add to the collective graves information. You do need a camera/cell phone with GPS capability.

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TWO MONITORS +
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I would like to recommend you consider using two or more monitors when doing your genealogical research. I currently am using 3 because they allow me to work quicker. Example – On the center monitor I do my searching in Ancestry (any genealogy site), on one side monitor I have my genealogy program where I enter data. This is very convenient because I can cut and paste from the genealogy site to the genealogy program, or just type in the info. On the other monitor I may open up the Find A Grave site in order to update information on the memorials, or even add a new memorial if needed. This system facilitates data entry because you are not constantly shifting from one program to another.

My principle monitor is a 27" flat screen TV. The larger monitor sure makes it easier on the eyes and is less tiring.

Other options- Use a large monitor and do a split screen operation.

Use your laptop as the second monitor.

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23andMe Offers New Genetic Report on Type 2 Diabetes
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23andMe's new type 2 diabetes report* offers customers insight into their likelihood of developing one of the most prevalent, pernicious, and yet preventable health conditions in the United States.

This new report will impact more 23andMe customers than any other Health

Predisposition report the company has ever released. In part, this is because the risk for type 2 diabetes is so high in the general population.

“Diabetes is a significant health issue in the United States that is expected to impact nearly half of the population,” said Anne Wojcicki, CEO and Co-Founder of 23andMe. “When customers learn about their genetic likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes, we believe there is an opportunity to motivate them to change their lifestyle and ultimately to help them prevent the disease.”

This article goes into some detail and if you are interested use this link to read in its entirety.

<https://blog.23andme.com/health-traits/type-2-diabetes/>

*Note: The 23andMe Type 2 Diabetes report is based on 23andMe research and incorporates more than 1,000 genetic variants to provide information on the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. The report does not account for lifestyle or family history and has not been reviewed by the US Food and Drug Administration.

March 10, 2019 By 23andMe under Health and Traits

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ONOMASTICS
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noun (used with a singular verb)
the study of the origin, history, and use of proper names.

Onomastics or onomatology is the study of proper names of all kinds and the origins of names. The word is derived from the Greek word, “onoma,” meaning name.

Members of royal families still use single names. A few celebrities, such as Madonna or Prince, also adopted single names to

further their careers. The rest of us use two or more names to reduce confusion in identifying individuals. In most of the world, hereditary family names, or surnames, have become the norm. Many names originally were based on a person’s physical characteristics, place of residence, occupation, or other distinguishing characteristics. As the centuries passed, the surnames have remained although those who carry the name today usually bear little resemblance to the ancestral namesake’s original unique characteristics.

Most Western cultures use the name order of “first name” for personal name and “last name” or “surname” for family name while much of the rest of the world uses the opposite order: family name before the personal name.

*From Dictionary.com
Blog.eogn.com*

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Inherited Genealogy Files: Adding Source Citations to an Inherited Family Tree
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Finding Source Citations for Your Inherited Family Tree

Let’s first give a brief definition of source citation.

Source Citation: the information that tells your reader where you obtained a particular piece of genealogical data.

For example, a family tree should include a source citation for the birth date and place, the death date and place, and the marriage date and place...and that’s just the start.

Finding source citations is really easy if you are using FamilySearch. Let’s say I used a death record I found online at

FamilySearch as the proof of my ancestors death date. What is so wonderful about using FamilySearch.org for finding records is that it includes a source citation for you to copy and paste.

Use this link to read this complete article. There are many examples on how to add the sources by using the cut and past method.

<https://lialouisecooke.com/2017/04/01/adding-source-citations/>

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**Incorrect U.S. Census Information—
When the Census Taker Gets It Wrong**
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On the first U.S. census day (August 2, 1790), 17 United States marshals and around 650 assistants began the task of finding and recording the population of the United States. These were the first U.S. census takers.

In 1880, specially trained census enumerators (census takers) were hired to replace the federal marshals in counting the population. A national census is taken every 10 years in the United States, and the information is then used to allocate congressional seats, electoral votes and funding for government programs. Census information is also used by businesses, community organizations, historians—and genealogists.

From the very first census, incorrect census information has been a concern. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington both speculated that the population of the country was higher than the 3.9 million counted in the 1790 census. Although early censuses recorded comparatively few names and gave a basic population count, more recent census records have much more information about individuals and households. As you search U.S. census

records, understanding census errors can help you with your family history.

Why Are There Mistakes in Censuses?

Most census mistakes are simply human error. Census takers risk severe penalties if they disregard confidentiality or deliberately misrepresent data. In fact, Census Bureau employees have always been required to take a nondisclosure oath and are sworn to protect the confidentiality of census data for life.

Nonetheless, inaccuracies do occur. Some of the most frequent reasons for incorrect census information include the following:

A focus on counting. Counting the population has always been the main focus of the United States census, not keeping perfect historical records. In fact, census questions from past censuses may have been answered by any member of a household, a boarder, or even a neighbor who agreed to be truthful.

Spelling errors. Looking for ancestors, genealogists may be stumped by name spellings that vary from census to census. Some of this variation comes because many U.S. schools taught spelling by phonics (by sound) in the 1800s. Also, in 1790 only about 65 percent of the United States population could read at all, so spelling a name was up to the census taker, according to Bill Dollarhide, author and census genealogy expert. Thinking of different ways to spell or misspell a name can help you identify your ancestors despite spelling variations in the census data.

Copying errors. Each set of census records has a different history of copies. Sometimes the copying process resulted in the county, state and federal governments holding separate copies, all of which may have slight variations. Genealogists usually

view the copy from the National Archives and Records Administration and may not realize they can also check state and county records to see if the forms contain copy errors.

Missing or false information. Citizens are sometimes wary that the U.S. census is for tax collection or may dislike answering census questions. Misunderstanding can also arise from language barriers between a census taker and the person being interviewed. Especially in older censuses, people responding may also not have had precise answers for some questions. For example, Dollarhide notes that birthdays weren't widely celebrated in the United States until the 1880s, and even parents may not have remembered exact ages for each family member.

Today, the U.S. census is conducted initially with mailed questionnaires, which prevents many recording errors. Census records have also been partially or fully processed by machine since as early as 1872. The Census Bureau is always working on improving the enumeration and processing of future U.S. censuses.

Can Incorrect Census Information Be Changed?

According to the United States Census Bureau, it isn't possible to correct an error in a census record. The census records are historical documents, and historical documents are not perfect. The Census Bureau recommends the following, "Our advice to genealogists who find inaccuracies is to make a note in their family history that the census record may contain errors."

The Census Bureau also points out that some of these errors can actually teach us about our family members. Families sometimes provided alternate or "Americanized" names, left illegitimate

children out of their household count, or misidentified their racial heritage when answering census questions. These intentional differences teach us about the culture surrounding our ancestors and may help us identify missing or interesting stories in our family history.

The Value of Census Records

While U.S. Census Records are not the only resource for tracing ancestors, they are freely accessible at FamilySearch.org and also available on other genealogy sites.

Finding an ancestor in a census record can be a great start to building or extending a family tree. Although census data may not have the same level of accuracy as other genealogical records, censuses can help you discover family stories. They also contain vital clues for locating other records. With the information from one or more census records, you may be able to locate a birth, marriage, or death record for your ancestor. You also might be able to track down naturalization papers or learn where ancestors lived and traveled within the United States.

*October 9, 2018 - by Jan Mayer
FamilySearch Blog*

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Sunshine Week Transcription Challenge
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March 10 marks the beginning of Sunshine Week 2019 at the National Archives! To celebrate this year, we're hosting a special citizen archivist mission focusing on transcription of two historically important civil rights cases held at the National Archives at Atlanta: Browder v. Gayle and Williams v. Wallace.

Use this link if you are interested.
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?pli=1#search/national+archives/FMfcgxwBVzsMwGXjQtmPvlktrrLVgKm>