THE SEARCHER

WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

Bringing together the generations to strengthen and support the family bond!

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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 Joyce Boster
Secretary: Cathi Mann-Fisher
Treasurer: Barbara Green
Auditor: vacant
Historian: Jeanan Richter
Library Custodian: Vacant
Membership: Judy Wagner
Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
Programs/Publicity: Bobby O'Neal
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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IN THIS ISSUE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As a genealogist, we are always thinking about the past. Sometimes asking questions such as " where did that get started? " Recently I started wondering about the origin of our Searcher newsletter when was the first one written and by whom? Lucky for me, the first two Searchers were found on a WIGS member's attic.

In June 1994 a small group of interested genealogists met at the Oak Harbor Senior Center. Janet Enzmann became the president. The group decided to put an article in the Whidbey News Times asking if anybody was interested in joining them to do genealogical research. The first Searcher was published September 1994. The president's message, "We've come a long way from our early days when an intrepid few began meeting at Senior Center…. full of enthusiasm and questions." By the time the Second searcher was published the president stated "Aren't we something! Three months old and already 96 members. We have outgrown our meeting place and moving to Oak Harbor Public Library meeting room." In the searcher, I was drawn to a clever advertisement, "A Beginners Research Class for Novice Heir Heads"

The Editors of the Searcher down through the years have been:

1944 – Jim & Roxanne Terry
1995 –1997 – Harold & Erica Gates
1998 – 199 – Tom Holsather
2000 – Carolyn Hendry
2001 - Margaret Kennedy
2002 – Jim Terry
2003 – Harold Gates
2004 – Ruth Hancock
2004 – 2015 – Gordon Garnhart
2016 – present – John Richter

Thanks to the Professional "Heir Heads" for all your labors of making the Searcher very informative.

Margie Kott

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS
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11 Jun 2019 Debbie Wallin will speak to us about "The History of Immigration to America"

July & August No Meetings.

10 Sep 2019 Jessica Aws from Sno-Isle Libraries, Oak Harbor will speak on a genealogical topic that is yet to be determined.

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DIRECT ITALIAN DECENDANT
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Are you of direct Italian ancestry? If so you might be interested that you may be eligible to apply for Italian citizenship. This would be in addition to your American citizenship. CBS Sunday Morning program on 19 May they told how Americans of direct Italian ancestry can apply. According to the article anyone who can prove direct relationship to a native Italian is eligible. It appears that Italian law gives this right to people who qualify. Furthermore so many people are seeking this dual citizenship, that there is a 10 year waiting list at the Italian Consulate in Los

Angles You can beat that list by hiring people in Italy to do the necessary research for proof then assist you in making your application. For a few American expats living in Italy this is their business. A side benefit is that your passport would be a EU passport thus allowing you to live in any EU country based solely on the passport.

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GEDmatch Implements Required Opt-In for Law Enforcement Matching
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GEDmatch is an open data personal genomics database and genealogy website founded in 2010 by Curtis Rogers and John Olson. Its main purpose is to help "amateur and professional researchers and genealogists," including adoptees searching for birth parents. However, it recently has also become "the de facto DNA and genealogy database for all of law enforcement," according to The Atlantic's Sarah Zhang.

GEDmatch recently gained a lot of publicity after it was used by law enforcement officials to identify a suspect in the Golden State Killer case in California. Other law enforcement agencies started using GEDmatch for violent crimes, making it one of the most powerful tools available for identifying "cold case" criminals.

Sadly, the same site also has generated a lot of controversy involving the lack of privacy of personal DNA information, both for the people who uploaded their own DNA data and especially for the relatives of the uploaders whose DNA information also was included without their permission and usually without their knowledge. Such blatant disregard for personal privacy may be a violation of privacy laws in many countries.

The GEDmatch owners have now tightened the web site's rules on privacy. The result is expected to make it much more difficult for law enforcement agencies to find suspects.

Judy Russell, often referred to as "The Legal Genealogist," has written an explanation of the issues involved and the reasons for the decision by the GEDmatch owners. Judy wrote:

"The new system fully conforms to all legal definitions of informed consent — particularly in light of the candid admission in the terms that GEDmatch can't promise there won't be new non-genealogical uses of the site someone figures out in the future that nobody is even thinking of today — and to the provisions of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well.

"And it's a good, right, ethical decision. Doing as much as any website can to protect the trust of genealogists that their DNA data will be used only for the purposes to which they personally consent leaves the entire field on firmer ethical ground."

You can read a lot more in Judy Russell's article at: https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2019/05/19/gedmatch-reverses-course/.

Eastmans Online Gen. 21 May 2019

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NAVY/MARINE CORPS MUSTER ROLLS
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About U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949
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This database contains U.S. Navy muster rolls and associated reports of changes for U.S. Navy enlisted personnel who served on U.S. Navy ships or in other naval activities between 31 January 1938 and 31 December 1949. Over 33 million records are contained in this database.

Muster rolls were quarterly lists of enlisted naval personnel attached to each ship, station or activity. Information usually available on muster rolls includes:

Name of enlistee
Rating (occupation/specialty)
Service number
Date reported for particular duty or on board
Date of enlistment
Name of ship, station or activity
Ship number or other numeric designation
Date of muster roll
It will be necessary to view the image of the muster rolls in order to obtain most of this information. Some of the records for personnel on aircraft carriers also include corresponding images of the ship.

Reports of changes were compiled monthly and are found in between each quarter's muster roll. They were alphabetical listings of enlisted personnel who were subject to significant status changes during the month. Status changes included reporting to or transferring from the activity, promotions or demotions, change in rate, departing for or returning from leave, temporary attached duty, and formal inpatient status for treatment in a medical facility. Personnel deaths that occurred during the month were also recorded on these reports. Information usually available on these records includes:

Name of enlistee
Date of the change
Explanation of the change
The rolls may also list passengers aboard naval vessels, and officers may be found among passengers on troop transports. Women (including officers) of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps may be found on

medical ships and as passengers aboard Navy ships and at some Navy shore installations. Wives and children of Navy personnel, as well as civilians, can be found among passengers as well.

Historical Background

With an eye to the worsening situation in Europe, the United States authorized expansion to a "two ocean Navy" in July 1940, which led to rapid and massive increases in numbers of ships and personnel. The Navy's ranks totaled 126,418 in September 1939. By the time Pearl Harbor was attacked on 4 December 1941, this had more than doubled to 325,095. By the end of the war, that number would increase more than 10 times to over 3.4 million. In that final total, from 2 September 1945, 93,064 were women.

Using This Collection

Ship images have been indexed, but the shore images have not been indexed. Images may be browsed by ship or shore, then ship, station or activity, then by roll description

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About U.S. Navy Muster Rolls, 1949-1963
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These records were created to document enlisted Navy personnel assigned to each and every distinct Navy command (known as "activities" in Navy terminology), such as ships, aviation squadrons, air stations, bases, stations, training centers and schools, flag staffs, and Marine Corps units.

Arranged by two-year chronological subseries (1949-1950, 1951-1952, 1953-1954, 1955-1956, and 1957-1958), followed by single-year subseries (1959-1971). Each subseries is arranged by "activity number," a unique number

assigned to each ship, unit, and command within the Navy. Each activity's muster rolls are arranged in chronological order by quarter, typically with enlisted personnel arranged by rate and there under alphabetically by surname. Beginning in the spring of 1956, officers precede enlisted personnel, with officers arranged either alphabetically by surname or hierarchically by rank. Personnel diaries, which precede each quarter's muster rolls, are arranged chronologically by date.

This collection will be updated with the remaining years soon.

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About U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958
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This database contains an index to U.S. Marine Corps muster rolls from 1798-1958. Information contained in this database includes:

Name
Rank
Enlistment date
Muster date
Station
About Muster Rolls:

Muster rolls are lists, usually prepared bimonthly, of the names of soldiers assigned to any military unit – militia, National Guard, regular army or navy, or volunteer army or navy. Usually these refer to a company, but they often refer to a regiment, a special detachment, or a band. Rolls for personnel on board ships were referred to either as crew lists or muster rolls. The rolls were made at the time a unit was created (muster-in rolls), when a unit was reorganized, when two or more units were merged, and when a unit was disbanded (muster-out rolls). Names appearing on a muster roll indicate those who were present or accounted for on a

given date, at which time a review of the troops and an inspection of their weapons and accoutrements was conducted.

This roll was used as the basis for pay due the marines. Names of commissioned officers were listed first, followed by names of noncommissioned officers and then privates. Shown on the form are the date and place of enlistment of each individual, by whom enrolled and for what period of time, date of muster into service, and date of last payment. Remarks might include information about any individuals absent or deceased. Prior to 1918, muster rolls sometimes also contained a "record of events" column describing the activities engaged in by the unit.

Taken from Neagles, James C., in U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry, 1994).

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LOCATIONS MEMBERS ARE SEARCHING
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Countries
Belgium   Edwin George Hammond
Canada   Jeanan Richter
Czechoslovakia Eleanore Greig
Denmark   Gayle Glass
England   Phillip Lohrenz, Edwin Hammond, Patricia Connell
Germany   Jeanne Irvin, Patricia Connell, Stephen Schwarzmann,
           John & Jeanan Richter
Holland   Gayle Glass
Hungary   Eleanore Greig
Ireland   Jeanne Irvin, Patricia Connell, Jeanan Richter
Italy   Stephen Schwarzmann
New Zealand   Patricia Connell
Norway   Edwin Hammond
Orient   Darlene Hammond
Prussia   Phillip Lohrenz, John Richter
Russia   Nedra Weaver, Phillip Lohrenz

Scotland   Patricia Connell
Sweden   Edwin Hammond
Switzerland   Stephen Schwarzmann

States

California Jeanne Irvin, Lyle Zimmerman, Jeanan Richter
Colorado   Shirley A. Cleveland-Hess
Delaware   Jeanne Irvin
Idaho   Lyle Zimmerman
Illinois   Danny Albert Hain, Fran Leasure, Jeanan Richter
Indiana Jeanan Richter
Kansas   Jeanan Richter
Kentucky Stephen Schwarzmann
Louisiana   Phillip Lohrenz
Maine   Nedra Weber
Minnesota   Lyle Zimmerman, Phillip Lohrenz
Missouri   Danny Albert Hahn
Montana   Nedra Weber
New York   Fran Leasure, Stephen Schwarzmann
North Dakota   Gayle Glass, Phillip Lohrenz
Ohio Stephen Schwarzmann
Oregon   Lyle Zimmerman
Pennsylvania   Fran Leasure, Jeanne Irvin, Nedra Weber,   Stephen Schwarzmann, John Richter, Jeanan Richter
Tennessee Cathy L. Lemon
Utah Lyle Zimmerman
Virginia   Cathy La. Lemon, Stephen Schwarzmann
Washington   Cathy L. Lemon, Darlene Ann Hammond, Gayle Glass, Lyle Zimmerman, Nedra Weber
Wisconsin   Gayle Glass, Shirley A. Cleveland-Hess
Wyoming   Nedra Weber

Counties
Clark County, MO   Pauline Richardson
Dauphin County PA John Richter
Delaware County NY Pauline Richardson
Hamilton County, IN   Pauline Richardson
Island County, WA   Shirley A. Cleveland-Hess

Jennings County, IN Jeanan Richter
Lancaster County, PA   John Richter
Lycoming County, PA Jeanan Richter
Mason County, WA   Shirley A. Cleveland-Hess
Montgomery County, PA   John Richter
Perry County, IN   Shirley A. Cleveland-Hess
Whatcom County, WA   Darlene Ann Hammond

Cities
Bellingham, WA   Darlene Ann Hammond
Bollinger, CO Danny Albert Hahn
Livingston, CO Danny Albert Hahn
Prosser, WA   Darlene Ann Hammond

Anyone wishing to be added to this list please let us know.

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MALE MIDDLE NAMES
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Frequently men we are researching have only a middle initial. One good source for middle names are the WW I & II draft cards which I have found to usually include the middle name. Ancestry and Fold 3 have these cards. Both these sites are subscription. Some times on Ancestry you may only see name information, especially WW II draft cards. Most WW I draft cards have an image.

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BACKUP GENEALOGY FILES
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We can never be reminded often enough to periodically back up our genealogy files which we have spent years developing. DO IT ROUTINELY!!!!. Especially after you have spent hours/days adding new information. Just get in the habit and do not wait for a predetermined day, i.e. the 1st of the month.

It is suggested that the files be backed up a number of different places, it's called redundancy. Use external hard drives, thumb drives, fellow genealogists and free cloud drives. Windows ONEDRIVE offers 5 TB of free space. Google Drive has 15 TB of free space. A benefit of these drives is you can share your files with friends and family because they allow sharing of large files.

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STANDING IN JUDGEMENT OF OUR ANCESTORS
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Standing in judgment of our ancestors may be unavoidable. Genealogists dig up the good, the bad, and the ugly. We cannot pick and choose what we find, but we might be able to pick what and how we share it with others. Read on to hear one listener's example and things to keep in mind when documenting and sharing unpleasant details.

Recently, I received a letter from a Genealogy Gems Podcast listener, which included a very delicate and sensitive matter. She writes:

Hi Lisa! I love your blog and podcast. Thank you for all you do getting gems together for us! I have a question for you and would love to know your opinion (or the opinion of anyone else as well).

I was recently at a family wedding. I printed out all the family and ancestor's paper trails and

documents and was passing them around to my aunt, uncles, and cousins. My mom's eldest brother brought up a memory he had of his grandfather, my great-grandfather, a German immigrant. My uncle whispered it to me because the saying my great-grandfather often aid is very prejudice. I won't tell you what the quote is but it's prejudice against Jewish, Irish, and Dutch people.

Here's my question: should I write down that my great-grandfather was prejudice against certain people to preserve this part of his character or should I let this information fade into history?
As genealogists we are always trying to get a full view of the person we are researching – past the census records, military service paperwork, and wills – and into the real person and personality. So, I now have a more broad view of my great-grandfather, but it's negative. Should I preserve this character flaw in my ancestry notes?

I'm conflicted about what to do. Maybe if this was a further distanced relative I would have an easier time brushing aside this prejudice but I'm having a hard time with the "right thing to do." Any advice would be wonderful! As a side note I will tell you that in the following generations this mans' children and grandchildren have married Irish and Jewish spouses. Haha. I guess the "saying"

was never echoed by his descendants! Thanks, Jennifer

This is a great question and I applaud you for thoughtfully taking a moment to really think it through and ask for advice before moving forward on recording what you were told.

You asked – Should I write down that my great-grandfather was prejudice against certain people to preserve this part of his character or should I let this information fade into history?

My opinion is: no. Mother Lisa says this is gossip and you didn't hear it straight from your great-grandfather. I certainly wouldn't want anyone else attributing a negative comment to me without having the chance to review or rebuke it. It's a slippery slope.

You also asked – Should I preserve this character flaw in my ancestry notes?

And there's the slippery slope. I believe that we, in this modern era, should avoid sitting in judgment of ancestors who are not here to defend themselves. We don't want to presume that we are in a position to decide how wrong "the crime" is. We certainly don't want to be negatively prejudiced against others ourselves, but it is impossible to put oneself in another's shoes in a differing time and circumstance.

We know nothing about what the person really said. Perhaps they were joking (even though in extremely bad taste!). Maybe the person who heard this, and passed it on, had an ax to grind and part (or none) of it is true. Or, maybe there was an experience that our ancestor suffered that could have given him a reason to gripe based on his personal experience. You just don't know.

In my book, I would chalk this up to gossip and either prove it with substantiated evidence or move on. What goes around comes around so let's hope it will prevent an occurrence of someone gossiping about you and your future descendant spreading it into the ages.

Deciding to Write the Whole Story
In cases where you have secured substantial evidence that a negative story is true, you still have a choice to make. When I come across particularly sensitive or negative information about an ancestor, and before I make it public, I ask myself, "who will this help and who will it hurt?" Does adding it to the family history enrich it? Is there anyone living today who might be hurt? If someone stands to be injured, but you're set on capturing the story, I encourage you to do so privately for your own records and of course, cite all of your sources.
If you do decide to write and publish sensitive stories, I know that you will want to do so in as gentle and fair a

way as possible. Here are some things to consider when writing about delicate stories of our ancestors:
Be sure to cite your source – who told you the story and when. The reader can decide how much weight to give the information.
Let your readers know your reason for sharing the story in the first place. Genealogy Gems blogger Amie Tennant recently read a family history that included a horrible childhood memory. The writer stated it was important to put the family dynamics in full view so that other stories would be seen in the "right light."
If naming everyone in the story will cause hurt or embarrassment, consider documenting the essence of the story without naming names.
 Lisa Cooke | Apr 29, 2019

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Discover More with the Genealogy Giants
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Here at Genealogy Gems, we've adopted the name 'Genealogy Giants' to refer to the 4 major genealogy records websites: Ancestry.com, Findmypast.com, MyHeritage.com, and FamilySearch.org. Each website has its own unique and distinct offerings, but there can also be a lot of overlap. So with hefty subscription price tags, the question we're often asked is, "Which website subscription do I need?" To tackle this, Sunny Morton's RootsTech class uncovers the secrets on how to compare these 4 giants so that you spend your time and money wisely. Watch the entire presentation for free using this link: https://youtu.be/dvGHfMIFySE