



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER – Winter 2019 - Vol. XXIII No. 4

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WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

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

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WIGS meets the third Tuesday of each month, September through June at 1:00 PM, the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church at 1253 NW 2nd Ave., Oak Harbor, WA. Across from the high school

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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President: Jeanan Richter
 Vice-Pres.: Steve Johnson
 Secretary: Danny Hahn
 Treasurer: Barbara Green
 Auditor: vacant
 Historian Margie Kott
 Library Custodian:
 Membership: Judy Wagner
 Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
 Programs
 Education & trips:
 The Searcher: John Richter
 Refreshments: Eleanore Grieg
 Sound: David Flomerfelt
 Ways & Means Charlotte Santos
 Webmaster: Danny Hahn

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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As I come to the close of my term as your president I have been thinking back over the years and what I have learned. (This feels like I am writing my own obituary).

In 2009 Margaret Self called members looking for officers for 2010. She called me and asked if I would be the vice president. I asked, “ what do I have to do?” She replied, “ nothing”. I said, okay. The year 2010 was going to was going very well with Lyle Zimmerman as president until he resigned due to other obligations. I was then thrust into the presidency and clueless what to do. I found out I enjoyed it so much I signed up for the next year and the next year and the next year....I was president so many times, I kept thinking “ aren’t they tired of me yet?” Fortunately I have always had great board members

who gave me helpful and “congenial pats on the back” when I messed up, especially concerning Robert’s Rules or the bylaws. Thank you all so much. I could not have done it without you.

At one point, I remember wanting to start our meetings but folks were still talking. I got the idea to open meetings with humorous stories or jokes (some came from Mr. Z). It became a tradition for me. However, humor took me by surprise one time when my cell phone rang during a meeting at which I had just reminded everyone to turn the phones off.

Writing the president’s message for every Searcher has been a pleasure. However, in the last Searcher, I wrote the incorrect date for the origin of weeks. I communicated that our organization was 45 years old instead of 25. My son joked “ mother, you should be impeached for that”. Well, instead of being impeached I have chosen not to volunteer again.

Jeanan Richter will be our 2020 president and I know she will do a good job. Steve Johnson will be the vice president and I am sure he knows what to do when Jeanan is in here, unlike me those many years ago.

Merry Christmas to everyone reading this and may you have a great new year finding any lost family.

Margie Kott

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**23 AND ME’S STANCE ON
PROTECTING CISTOMERS’
DATA**

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A Florida judge recently issued a warrant granting law enforcement access to search the database of GEDmatch, a small publicly accessible DNA and genealogy research site. Allowing law enforcement access to GEDmatch’s nearly one million users should trouble anyone who values people’s right to privacy.

It certainly troubles us here at 23andMe.

Perhaps just as disturbing is GEDmatch’s apparent lack of scrutiny and challenge of the validity of the warrant issued. According to reporting by the New York Times, the company opened up its database to law enforcement within 24 hours of the judge’s decision. Given this timing, it does not appear that GEDmatch exhausted all legal avenues to challenge the warrant. In contrast, if we had received a warrant, we would use every legal remedy possible. And to be clear, because our database is and always has been private, we don’t believe that this decision impacts 23andMe.

In our 13 year history, 23andMe has never turned over any customer data to law enforcement or any other government agency. Protecting the

security and privacy of our customers' information is at the core of what we do as a business. Unfortunately, not all businesses adhere to these same principles. That is in part why we warn our customers about uploading their genetic data to third-party, public websites like GEDmatch.

It is also why 23andMe was the first consumer genetics company to openly publish a Transparency Report, which details the number of government requests we've received for customer data. To date, we've received seven requests for data from 10 of our 10 million customers and we've successfully challenged each one. In addition, we aligned with the non-profit organization Future of Privacy Forum and other leading

create best practice industry guidelines to support the industry as a whole in protecting consumer privacy.

All of us have a certain expectation of privacy. In the United States, the Fourth Amendment is meant to protect people's right to privacy and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.

23andMe believes that people's right to privacy is worth fighting for.

*November 7, 2019 By 23andMe under News & Announcements
By Kathy Hibbs, 23andMe's Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer*

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GEDMATCH
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The new owners of GEDmatch, a third-party genealogy site that's helped investigators crack cases using DNA, have vowed to protect users' privacy by fighting against police search warrants.

Verogen, Inc., the California-based forensic genomics company that recently bought GEDmatch, announced this week that it would ensure ongoing privacy protections remain in place.

In May, GEDmatch announced a change to its policy that would require participants to upload their personal DNA to the database and manually "opt in" if they wanted law enforcement to have access to their information. Before, users were opted in automatically.

The terms of service will not change, with respect to the use, purposes and processing of user data, Verogen CEO Brett Williams said in a statement.

The database currently has more than 1.3 million customer profiles, according to Verogen.

"We are steadfast in our commitment to protecting users' privacy and will fight any future attempts to access data of those who have not opted in," Williams said.

Up to 70 violent crimes have been solved as a result of genealogy searches, according to the company. GEDmatch was the tool California authorities used to identify and catch the suspected Golden State Killer.

The technology works by taking DNA submitted by suspects' family members and creating a much larger family tree than those built using law enforcement databases, such as the Combined DNA Index System, aka CODIS, in which an exact match is needed in most states, genealogy expert CeCe Moore told ABC News earlier this year.

Other direct-to-consumer DNA companies, including AncestryDNA and 23AndMe, do not allow their DNA samples to be searched by authorities, Moore said.

ABC NEWS 12 Dec 2019

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A Study on Physicians' Knowledge of Consumer Genetic Testing

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Surging interest in consumer DNA testing has pushed far ahead of physicians' relevant training and knowledge of genetics, and this, in turn, limits their ability to engage with patients who have done genetic testing.

But a new study found that when physicians undergo direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic tests themselves, the process boosts their interest, confidence, and comfort with this type of genetic testing, offering new opportunities to engage with their patients.

Learning More about 23andMe

The national study, done by researchers at Duke University's Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine and at 23andMe, included the evaluation of attitudes and knowledge of primary care physicians before and after they themselves underwent DNA testing with 23andMe's Health + Ancestry Service.

Most of the 130 doctors who participated in the survey said they wanted to learn more about consumer genetic testing, gain a better understanding of the clinical utility and application of genetic testing, and use that information to better counsel their patients.

Perceptions and Understanding

The study allowed researchers to gauge how testing might change their familiarity with genetic concepts, personal genetic testing, and the role that genetics plays in the risk for common diseases.

"We found that doctors' understanding and perceptions of DTC genetic testing changed significantly after testing," said 23andMe's lead on medical outreach Esther Kim, PharmD, who was also a co-author of the paper.

The Impact of Testing

Before testing, only about a quarter of the primary care physicians surveyed said they were comfortable discussing genetics or genetic risks. After using the service this changed

significantly. Almost 60 percent felt more confident with such discussions after undergoing testing. A majority of physicians also said they thought testing could be used to motivate healthy behavior and prompt their patients to make healthy behavior changes.

In the survey of primary care physicians, the study found that along with motivating a healthy lifestyle, about 70 percent of physicians also thought testing would help with early detection of adult-onset inherited diseases, and incentivize patients to actively participate in their healthcare. Those numbers were the same both before and after testing.

Medical Education

The study appears to validate work that 23andMe's Medical Education team has been doing for several years now, offering training and other resources to physicians incorporating direct-to-consumer testing into patient care.

"Much of our medical education efforts are geared towards creating resources and activities so healthcare professionals can effectively answer their patients' questions about consumer genetics," said 23andMe's Anne Greb, MS, CGC, one of 23andMe's genetic counselors and lead on 23andMe's Medical Education team. "To build on the results of this Duke study, we are developing an online medical

genetics course, to help physicians integrate this kind of information into patient care."

About 30 percent of those who've tested share their information with their healthcare providers, according to some estimates, making this training a vital tool for primary care physicians.

"For many physicians opportunities to engage with and learn about genomic medicine is limited," said Dr. Kim. "So finding effective strategies like this to experience consumer genetics firsthand can help them to stay current on the evolving genetic testing landscape and prepare for conversations with their patients."

November 13, 2019 By 23andMe

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**TRACING FEMALE
ANCESTORS**
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This rundown of the best genealogy records for finding the women in your family tree.

Cemetery records: Check the woman's tombstone and note surrounding ones, which may belong to her family.

Church records: Witnesses on a woman's or her children's religious records may be her relatives.

Court records: Women typically didn't leave wills (in many times and places, married women legally couldn't), though a widowed or unmarried woman may have. Your female ancestor or her relatives may be named in her father's or husband's will. Also check divorce records, which may have been filed even if a divorce wasn't granted.

Home sources: Examine letters, needlework and quilts, recipe books, address books, baby books, wedding albums, Bibles and calenders for names of—and details about—female ancestors.

Land records: Women rarely owned land but may be named in deeds. A married woman may have signed a release of dower when her husband sold land. Those selling land to a couple, especially for a small sum, may be the woman's relatives. Also consider that the neighbors may be her family.

Marriage records: These might include a license, certificate, return, church register, banns, bond or newspaper announcement.

Military pensions: A woman could file for a military pension when her husband or unmarried son died of war-related injuries. Widows had to send marriage records to prove the marital relationship.

Naturalizations: Until 1922, wives automatically became naturalized when their husbands did.

Unmarried women rarely sought naturalization. Post-1922, look for separate records for married women.

Newspapers: Pay special attention to society columns, announcements of births, engagements or anniversaries, and obituaries.

Vital records: A woman's death record may name her father (later records are more detailed). Birth records often give the mother's maiden name.

Diane Haddad Family Tree

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**MEANINGS OF GRAVESTONE
 SYMBOLS**
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<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Acorn	prosperity; power; triumph
Anvil and Hammer	blacksmith
Basket	fertility; maternal bond
Bird	flight of the soul
Candle	life
Column/Pillar (Broken)	life cut short; sudden death
Evergreen	faithfulness; remembrance
Farmer	plow; hoe; rack; stalk of corn; shock of wheat
Fern	sincerity; humility; solitude
Fruit	eternal plenty
IHS Mono-gram	Christian; name of Jesus
Key	knowledge; entrance to heaven
Lamp	knowledge; spiritual immortality

Lily innocence, purity, and the resurrection (Easter); marriage and fidelity (Calla); innocence and humility (Lily of the Valley)

Mariner anchor; sextant

Oak Leaf strength; stability; endurance

Olive Tree peace; reconciliation between God and man

Palm life conquering death

Rose love; beauty; virtue; strong bond (intertwined); youthful death (rosebud)

Sphinx courage; honor; power

Tree-shaped possible member of The Modern Woodmen of America or Woodmen of the World fraternal organization member

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FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES ACCESS GENEALOGY

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This grab-bag of free genealogy records keeps growing. Click the Databases tab to search data from Southern states, military records, small-town newspapers and the Guion Miller Roll index to Cherokee tribal members. The latter supplements what was already a must-bookmark site if you have Native American roots.

FamilySearch

More than 2,200 online collections (and growing) make this the internet's largest home to free genealogy data, with recent updates spotlighting Italy, South America and US vital records. You can share

and record your finds in family trees and a "Memories Gallery," and get research help from the wiki.

HeritageQuest Online

Free to your home computer courtesy of your library card via participating institutions, (*Sno-Isle does NOT have this available at this time. Available at Seattle Public Library, spl.org, and King County Library System, kcls, with active library card.*) HeritageQuest is now "powered by" (but not owned by) Ancestry.com. This partnership has dramatically expanded its half-dozen collections to a sort of "Ancestry.com lite," including the complete US census, military and immigration records, and city directories. Click Search and scroll all the way to the bottom to unlock more US records as well as selected foreign databases.

Olive Tree Genealogy

Since its launch in 1996, this modest website has grown into a useful collection of how-to help and databases. It's strongest on passenger records, heritage groups such as Palatines and American Indians, and less-familiar records, such as those for residents of orphans and almshouses.

RootsWeb

This venerable free site still serves up how-to articles, databases of surnames and US locations, mailing lists, pedigree files and much more—making it an oldie but a goodie

USGenWeb

This volunteer site recently celebrated its 20th birthday with a mobile-friendly update. Its state and county pages and special projects remain as vibrant as ever. Just found an ancestor who lived in, say, Stone County, Ark.? There's a page for that, as for almost every other place your family may have landed.

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COFFIN PLATES
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The history of Coffin Plates or casket plates is a long but not very well documented one. Coffin plates are decorative adornments attached to the coffin that contain free genealogical information like the name and death date of the deceased.

They are generally made of a soft metal like lead, pewter, silver, brass, copper, zinc or tin. The different metals reflect the different functions of the plates, or the status and wealth of the deceased. For a basic funeral, a simple lead plate would be lettered with the name, date of death and often the age of the departed, and nailed to the lid of a wooden coffin. But high status people could afford a plate of a more expensive metal and elaborate design.

The oldest coffin plates date from the 17th century (1600~1699) and were at that time reserved for people of some stature. As time went on more people were able to afford the luxury

of a Coffin Plate and with the coming of the industrial revolution the cost of the plates went down so much that by the middle of the 19th century almost every family could afford to have one put on the coffin of their loved one.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON
PHOTOGRAPHS
DOCUMENTING THE
CILILIAN CONSERVATION
CORPS (CCC)**
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The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established on April 5, 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6101. It was signed just one month into Roosevelt's presidency, making the CCC one of the earliest New Deal programs. Using the next link you can read the entire article and get directions of how to search for information which may be of interest to you. We all know of CCC projects in our home areas. Perhaps you can find a surprise taking a tour.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm0&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwGCHDmHDnXgCFMBGFhqqfTPCQc>

When you access this You Tube video notice the *other* genealogical videos listed on the right hand side. Looks like a fun exploration, including a 6 hour National Archives Genealogy Fair.