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WIGS NEWSLETTER –COVID 19 Special Edition Sep 2020

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WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

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

During the COVID 19 pandemic person to person genealogy has taken quite a hit. Going to the library, courthouse, archives, club meetings, etc. has made searching more challenging, but gives more meaning to online research.

Having stated the obvious many of the online providers have been very liberal with their making some of their online services free, either open ended or for a limited time. You may want to explore the following sites to see what you can use in your research. Also some are giving discounts for their subscription services. The following are sites/services you may wish to explore. As you visit these sites you will find the one(s) that are most useful to you. If available you may want to register to the latest edition rather than try to remember to visit the site.

Websites to visit.

Some have daily offerings, some free stuff, some don't but may have discounts.

Thomas MacEntee thomas@genealogybargains.com

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems genealogygemspodcast@gmail.com

Family Tree Magazine FamilyTreeMag@yankeepub.com

Ellen T-J from Hound on the Hunt info@familyhistoryhound.com

Legacy Tree Genealogists <https://www.legacytree.com/blog>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <https://blog.eogn.com/>

There is a free edition and a subscription edition, \$19.95/yr.

This is the most popular online genealogy magazine in the world, as measured by Alexa.

Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

This list is in no particular order.

SNO-ISLE Libraries

Have you checked out the new library site?

Try this: <https://www.sno-isle.org/research/genealogy>

Notice that Ancestry, Library Edition, is available online free until the end of the year.

MyHeritage Library Edition is also available online.

Then there is a list of related resources including our own website. Check them out you may find something you have been looking for some time.

Speaking about libraries you might try asking a librarian for some help, you never know what might turn up. On a research trip to back east I contacted a librarian in the town I was going to visit and asked if there was any information regarding a great uncle. When I got to the town and went to the library she had copies of newspaper articles ready for me. By phoning ahead I gave her time to research without feeling hurried because I was at her desk. Just remember librarians are a very helpful.

Photo Enhancement

One free service that I have had very good results with is the My Heritage colorization program. <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>

I had a great time online with a lady in New Jersey with whom I share a Great Aunt. We both had b & w photos which I colorized and shared with her. I also scanned many b & w family photos from Jeanan's and my families. If you are not a subscriber you can still sign up for this free service. Try it, it is a kick.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

If you have not subscribed to Legacy Family Tree Webinars now might be the time to consider doing so. Watch their website for discounts for NEW memberships. There are hundreds of webinars to choose from, across many different topics. Also remember they offer new ones free for about 7 days from actual streaming. You can watch them live. Sign up prior to streaming and you have a chance, although low, of winning a prize. Sometimes there are multiple prizes given out.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Indexing

Have you ever considered helping indexing records. This is a good way to help make information available. If you go to <https://www.familysearch.org/>, in the header banner click on the Indexing tab and follow the instructions. You might want to get familiar with this so when the 1950 US Census becomes available, in April 2022, for indexing you are ready. This form was very short compared to the 1850-1940 series.

RootsTech Goes Virtual in 2021

FamilySearch has announced that RootsTech 2021 will be held in February as a free, virtual event.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual family history conference originally scheduled for February 3–6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, will now be held online February 25–27, 2021. “

Use this link to read the full details:

<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/rootstech-goes-virtual-2021>

Visit rootstech.org to register for the free virtual event.

Project to Consider

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company, housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions.

The online checklist also contains links to existing digital images from their collection and will be updated as new images are added. If you have any questions, comments, or are interested in obtaining reproductions from the collection, please Ask A Librarian.

The Sanborn maps are arranged by state, then city and release data. Currently there are over **25,000** sheets from over **3000** city sets online in the following states: AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, OH, OK, PA, SD, TX, VA, VT, WY and Canada, Mexico, Cuba sugar warehouses, and U.S. whiskey warehouses.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/>

My hometown in Pennsylvania has maps from 1911 and 1942. They show the layout of the town and all the buildings that were there at the time. However you need to be careful because some buildings may not be there on a sheet you think it should be. Example; my Grandfather's hotel was not on one sheet but it was on another. The hotel was on the town square so when they did the east-west street it did not show but did show on the north-south street.

The town was, and is, small so I thought what if I used the 1910 and 1940 census and using a database I have of the town I added census occupation information to the residents. I needed to add people who were not in the data base. With some work one can take the map and show where the people were living because the enumerator went down one side of a street and back on the other side. Of course you have to know where some people lived, giving you a reference point.

With my genealogy program I was able to do a search for all who were enumerated save the search as CVS document then paste it to a spreadsheet giving me a easily searchable format without using the genealogy program,

You may be able to do this even for a large city, just using the area where your relative(s) lived.

Many of the maps can be downloaded. See lower left side of the image, there is a download button to use. If you want to download a sheet and intend to enlarge, use the largest scale to meet your needs. I use the largest and take the file on a thumb drive to Office Max to get it printed.

Earlier censuses may have identified the street name but listed houses only in order of enumeration. Smaller towns may not have had street numbers until later than larger towns and cities. No mail delivery, you went to the post office to get your mail. If you could afford it you might even rent a mail box, otherwise your mail went to general delivery and you could get it only when the service window was open.

Doing this project was an interesting history lesson, seeing how the occupations differed from 1910 to 1940.

1910 the largest employer was the Swab Wagon Company. The largest employee skill set was blacksmith, followed by wood workers and painters. A shirt factory hired many women to sew shirts (44), There was also a hosiery mill and 1 Pickle Peddler.

In 1940 there were a shirt factory, 90 employees, dress factory, shoe factory, dairy and many WPA workers (66), mostly on road construction (44). 1 Taxi driver.