

# GSQ e-NEWS

## Issue 162

## April 2020

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### OPEN

Monday • Closed

Tuesday • 10am - 3pm

Wednesday • 10am - 3pm

Thursday • 10am - 3pm

Friday • 10am - 3pm

Saturday • 12noon - 4pm

Sunday • Interest Groups

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month • 6pm-9pm.

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### From the President

April 2020

**We're living in unprecedented times** – who could possibly have predicted at the beginning of 2020 that the situation with the COVID-19 Virus would have unfolded as it has!! As you are aware, GSQ's Management Committee made a decision to close GSQ from Monday, 16 March to the end of March. This closure will almost certainly be extended to an unknown date at this stage. All members will be notified by email (or telephone for those without email addresses) when our facility is able to reopen.

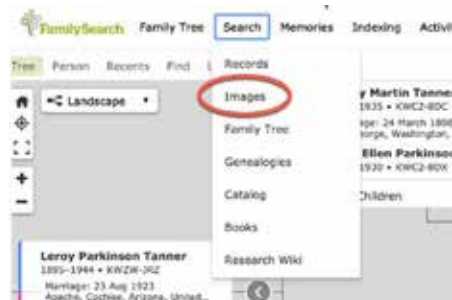
With so many of us confined to home, this edition of eNews is devoted to providing you with some suggested ways of spending your time whilst in isolation – don't forget, of course, to phone /email your GSQ friends to catch up with their news and happenings! To me this would be an ideal time to tidy up your records, perhaps digitise the ones you've always meant to do. Is writing your family history something you've been meaning to work on for years? This enforced period of not being able to visit GSQ actually provides an opportunity for making a start on this pleasant task. Perhaps, selecting one of your favourite ancestors and writing his/her history is a place to begin. Our "Generation" editor, Russell, is always looking for articles to publish.

Have you explored GSQ's website fully? As a member, you have access to MyGSQ on the website – if you haven't explored this, then a treasure trove of riches awaits you – there are Funeral Director and Cemetery Records there that you won't find elsewhere! Use these in combination with TROVE and you just might manage to solve the riddle whose solution you've searched for years! The Unrelated Certificates are also worth checking out – perhaps there's one there for your family! If you want to be really organised, why not check out the Online Catalogue – you can search by Title, Author, Keyword or ISBN. Through doing this, you could compile a list of resources to check out once our Library re-opens!

Thanks to all of those who responded to Communique 4 – if you haven't already done so, it's not too late – still another way of keeping occupied during the enforced break! By the way, at the time of my preparing this article, 49 GSQ members had responded (7.5% of roll out) – this compares with 9.3% of QFHS members.

Should you wish to share your genealogical news with other members for possible publication in an edition of eNews, please send to [enews@gsq.org.au](mailto:enews@gsq.org.au) .

With my best wishes for the health and wellbeing of all,  
Helen Veivers, President



GSQ is closed because of the Covid-19 virus but that doesn't mean you have to stop your family history searching! This edition of eNews has a number of ideas you can explore from home. Indeed, this is a wonderful opportunity to catch up on your family history, no meetings etc to distract you!

If you find some new & wonderful online resources email me at [enews@gsq.org.au](mailto:enews@gsq.org.au) and I will insert them in May eNews.

Keep safe & happy researching.  
Helen Connor



## GSQ Notices



### DNA Discovery Day 2020

Planning for our DNA Discovery Day 2020 is well underway with the event booked for **Saturday 23rd May** at the Nazareth Hall, Woolloongabba so mark that in your diary now.

### Call for Submissions to Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages for publication in its Historical BDM Bulletin.

You may/may not be aware that GSQ has an Agreement with the Registry through which it supports our Open Days by a presence and providing images which we use in a number of ways.

GSQ has received a request from the Registry for stories, information, tips and tricks for publication in its next Bulletin. This is a great opportunity for GSQ members to contribute – stories with a Queensland flavour would, of course, be preferred.

Send all submissions to Helen Veivers at [president@gsq.org.au](mailto:president@gsq.org.au).



### Our Future

Have you received the fourth communique about possible amalgamation of QFHS and GSQ? Copies are available [HERE](#) along with details of how to have your say.

The Communique outlines the ongoing activities of the Amalgamation Sub-Committee in finding a name for the amalgamated organisation, seeking suitable premises, and more information about the process of deciding whether to amalgamate.

Future communiques will continue providing regular updates on the discussions and investigations.

### TAG (Technical Advisory Group) News



While it is rather quiet at present, I thought you might like to take the time to do some maintenance on your own computers.

Regardless of if you have a computer/laptop etc running Windows or Mac, you do need to keep your computer clean and up to date. Most issues with computers are in relation to dust not being cleaned out and then affecting fans, motherboard and power connections.

Before doing any sort of cleaning make sure you have DISCONNECTED and TURNED OFF ALL POWER to your computer.

Most desktop computers have a side panel that can be easily slide open. Be careful when blowing the dust that it is away from you and also not onto the motherboard. An old toothbrush is handy to remove dust from the fans and grills around your computer. Be gentle and do not touch too much inside. Do not use a vacuum cleaner otherwise you will create static.

The same applies to your keyboard and mouse – use wipes gently as well as an old toothbrush to clean the dust from inside the keyboard – you will be surprised at the amount of dust and dirt that accumulates inside it. Remember underneath the mouse on the pads that slide on the mouse pad is where the dirt builds up. Also remember to wipe down your mouse pad and computer area. Your computer will appreciate the little bit of care you have given it.

Ailsa Corlett



## FREE Family History Webinars from Legacy Family Tree

What is the cost: There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. BUT, the recording available to view for the next 7 days - for free! Watch it as many times as you would like, pausing and taking notes, during the free viewing period.

### APRIL

- 1 April - *Betty Jeans Story - Forensic Genealogy, DNA and Adoption* by Mags Gauden
- 14 April - *Jumpstart Your MyHeritage Family Tree with Instant Discoveries* by James Tanner, MyHeritage Webinars
- 22 April - *Introduction to Vivid-Pix RESTORE* by Rick Voight
- 28 April - *Working with DNA segments on MyHeritage* by MyHeritage Webinars, Ran Snir

### MAY

- 1 May - *The Future is Still in the Past: An Introduction to Online Parish Clerks in the United Kingdom* by Wayne Shephard
- 5 May - *Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy* by Thomas MacEntee
- 6 May - *Crème de la crème: Targeted Autosomal DNA Testing to Isolate Pertinent Genetic Cousins* by Paul Woodbury
- 12 May - *Leveraging MyHeritage's German Resources Effectively* by James M. Beidler, MyHeritage Webinars
- 19 May - *Discover the Holdings of German Archives* by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG
- 20 May - *Timesaving Apps for Busy Genealogists* by Lisa Alzo
- 26 May - *Enlightened Design with the MyHeritage Chart Creation Tool* by Janet Hovorka, MyHeritage Webinars
- 27 May - *Mistrust Transcriptions: And Here's Why* by Dr. Bruce Durie

If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything. The Legacy Webinar website with more information is available [HERE](#). Download the 2020 Family History Webinars PDF [HERE](#).



## Riding the Waves of History

**36th Annual Conference of the  
NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies  
11-13 September 2020 - (Friday to Sunday)**

**at Wests New Lambton Newcastle**

**Hosted by the Newcastle Family History Society Inc**

**with the support of the**

**Maitland & Beyond Family History Group Inc**

Conference web page coming soon.



**22 - 26 March 2021**

**Sunshine Coast Convention Centre  
& Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort**

**7 KEY SPEAKERS REVEALED!**

Blaine Bettinger	Maurice Gleeson
Cyndi Ingle	Paul Milner
Chris Paton	David Rencher
Judy Russell	

plus many more local speakers

Relax with Sunshine and Genealogy!

Enjoy this state-of-the-art venue, with the natural beauty of bush and beach. What better environment to get away and soak up this amazing conference.

Keep in touch with the event click [HERE](#) to go to the website to register.

**STOP PRESS**

**Early bird reduced price.**

**\$545 - 4 days pass (save \$150)**

**ends 31 August 2020.**

***Subject to the restrictions regarding the Covid-19 situation, all interest groups are postponed for the foreseeable future.***

## Redlands Branch

Due to COVID-19, meetings of the Redland Genealogical Society are cancelled until further notice. Our Library, within the Cleveland Library, is also closed until further notice.

Meetings of the Writing and Family Tree Maker Special Interest Groups are also suspended.

The planned trip to Canungra on 29 April has been postponed to a date to be advised.

### ***Message from the DNA SIG***

To all our members,

With the current socialising limitations we would encourage folk to take advantage of the extra time you have at present and think of all the times when our meeting presenters have talked to you about new or different methods to help work out your DNA matches, and you have thought "If only I had the time". Now is the time.

Play with the clustering tools, the colour coding, writing email and messages to matches, and maybe now that others have the time as well, they will reply to your message. Another suggestion is to read up on all the DNA books you have collected; put all your contacts into a spreadsheet or even a Word document and enter the DNA amounts and links into your family tree.

Take advantage of the time you would normally be spending at meetings doing some of the above, and you will be amazed at what you can achieve and find out. Now that the Christmas gift DNA kits are being processed, we're hoping that you all receive great new matches to follow up.

Ailsa Corlett

### ***A message from the German SIG***

The best place for German family history and the one I have found most items of interest are Facebook pages; there are thousands; put in the area in Germany you are interested in - there is bound to be a Facebook page. There is a Facebook page for German Family books connections. Also [GedBas Genealogy](#) is a wonderful site.

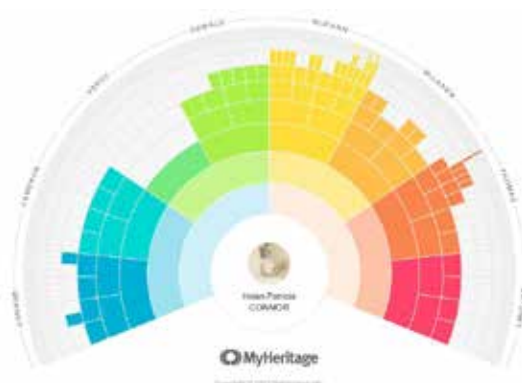
Not sure if details exactly correct but family history is an adventure.

Lesley Roebig

### *Ancestors*

If you could see your ancestors all  
standing in a row,  
Would you be proud of them, or not,  
or don't you really know?  
Some strange discoveries are made  
when climbing family trees,  
But some of them perhaps do not  
particularly please.  
If you could see your ancestors all  
standing in a row,  
There might be some of them you  
would not care to know,  
But there is a different question which  
requires a different view,  
If you could meet your ancestors  
would they be proud of you?

*This poem appeared in the Clarence River Historical Society February 2020 newsletter & is reproduced with permission.*



MyHeritage has released a new view for family trees: *Fan View*. It provides a colorful and interactive representation of your family tree and is available for free to all MyHeritage users.

Like other views of the tree, you can get a Fan View of any individual in your family tree and see their ancestors. There are two modes: Text mode, which lists names of your ancestors and their relationship to you, and Colour mode, which displays your main ancestral surnames, and shows which lines can benefit from more research.

It's a great way to showcase your efforts to your family and friends, and you can easily share it on your social media channels.

## Message from the English/Irish SIG

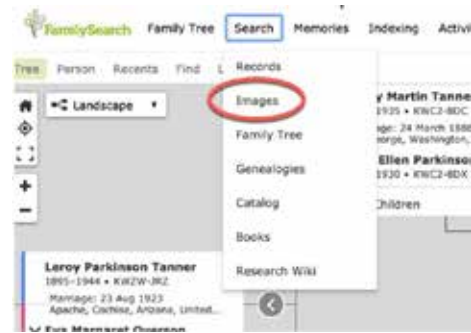
Although access to GSQ itself will be limited for the foreseeable future, there are still many research options open to those researching English and Irish ancestors.

1. FamilySearch contains many records – if the record/s you want are not viewable at home, make a list for viewing when GSQ re-opens. Not everything on FamilySearch is indexed. If you know approximately when and where an event, such as a marriage occurred, try finding it on the FamilySearch website by going to search>select catalogue>type in the place>select the appropriate category of record e.g. marriages>select the digitised film and scroll through it to the approximate date. Use the information at the beginning of each section of film to more quickly locate the correct information. Yes, it takes a bit of time, but it is worth the effort.
2. Check the websites of the various county record offices. Last weekend I found a marriage record for a direct ancestor which I had not previously located, despite trying for many years and looking in many different places. A copy was available, for a small fee, through the Essex County Record Office. If you have previously visited County Record Office websites, try again as many such organisations now have better indexing and access to their records.
3. Check other useful websites such as GENUKI, Cyndi's List, FamilySearch wiki, etc. The list is endless.
4. Check the national archives for England and Ireland – catalogues are much more user friendly now.
5. Check national and county library websites.
6. Check the websites of Family and Local History groups in the areas you are interested. Some Family History groups give easy access to parish records, etc.
7. Review the notes from previous sessions on various English, Irish and Welsh counties for other suggestions.
8. Check out the services offered by Online Parish Clerks – not available in all counties.
9. Remember Google is your friend – find out more about where your ancestor/s lived.
10. Maps of England and Wales are available (for different time frames) through the National Library of Scotland.

And enjoy extra time when available to research your English and Irish ancestors.

Also, remember to write about your ancestors – share their stories with others! With family, friends and the GSQ community through publication in *Generation*.

Janice Wellard



## New Images Feature from FamilySearch opens up unindexed records

The FamilySearch.org website recently added an "Images" search selection to the Search menu (shown above). This new feature is called the Historical Images Tree Tool. The reason for adding this tool is somewhat complicated. Here is an excerpt from the FamilySearch blog post entitled, "[Explore Historical Images Tool Unlocks Data in Digital Records](#)," introducing the feature.

- Explore Historical Images marks the beginning of a new and different search experience. With this tool, images produced from FamilySearch's 300+ digital cameras worldwide is made almost instantly available.
- Explore Historical Images helps you navigate to images of historical records that could contain information about your ancestors. Although you aren't able to search for your ancestor by name directly, you are able to narrow your search by place, date, and other information that was captured when the image was taken.

The reality of the FamilySearch.org website is that, according to the blog post, in 2018, FamilySearch added over 432 million new record images to its online collections. From the January 2020 FamilySearch.org Facts, there are 1.73 billion digital images published only in the FamilySearch.org Catalog. This means that these images are not indexed and cannot be searched in the Historical Record Collections. In fact, there are more images listed only in the Catalog than there are in the Historical Record Collections. Of course, these numbers change constantly but the percentage of records in the catalog will continue to grow at a faster rate than the number in the Historical Record Collections.

## A message from Convict Connections SIG

The topic for discussion at our 12th April meeting was to be "[The Digital Panopticon Website](#)". As this site is continually being updated, it is worth looking at its contents if you have an interest in British courts, hulks, transportation, etc. Those members who are on our "meetings email list" will be sent a copy of the talk. Others interested in a copy can email [convictconnections@yahoo.com.au](mailto:convictconnections@yahoo.com.au)  
Val Blomer.

## A Genealogical to-do list while you keep your distance

Trying to keep your distance from everyone else while we wait out COVID-19? Stuck at home as you self-quarantine? Now is a great time to focus on genealogy. Here are 20 ideas for you to consider as you fill your days with indoor activities.

1. **Establish Your Personal Learning Plan.** Identify your webinars of preference, watch them, and then study the handouts. Really study the handouts by exploring the suggested websites, seeking out the books in the bibliographies, and jot down notes for future reference.
2. **Scan!** It's a good time to pull out some of those photos you have been meaning to scan and start. You could even watch webinars while you do it!
3. **Upload photos to the Cloud.** Use this time to share and store your photos (especially those that you just scanned).
4. **Download your photos from your phone.** Are you guilty of this? I go to a library or archive and take a bunch of photos and then think I'll download them later.
5. **Take a 2nd look at the census.** I know, I know, you've already looked at the census. But what about exploring the pages before and after your ancestor's listing.
6. **Search WorldCat.** Have you used [WorldCat](#), the world's library catalog?
7. **Search ArchiveGrid** to become familiar with manuscript collections in the place your ancestor lived.
8. **Search the FamilySearch Catalog** for the place your ancestor lived.
9. **Update your family tree.** Take some time to update your family tree whether it's on your computer or online.
10. **Take a new look at your DNA results.** New matches? New ethnicity estimates?
11. **Timelines.** Create a timeline for an ancestor you are researching now or an ancestor you want to research.
12. **Revisit your grandparents.** Have you researched your grandparents? What records are you missing? What social history can you add to their lives? Work on writing some short narratives/stories about their lives.
13. **Create a timeline for your life.** For many of us, someday we will be an ancestor. Do your future family genealogist a favor and create a timeline for your own life. Add vital record events, milestones, and historical events that had meaning for you.
14. **Start a journal.** We are living in a unique historical period, document it now by starting a journal. Then look at how you can add to your journal with newspapers, photos, and emails from family.
15. **Digitize!** Have old photocopies from library visits when you first started your family history? Digitize those, organize them on your computer and then throw them away.
16. **Take your genealogy to Facebook.** Have you identified Facebook genealogy groups to join? Now is the time to do that. Start with lists curated by [Katherine R Willson](#), [Gail Devers](#), and [Alona Tester](#).
17. **Identify blog articles to read.** Bloggers do such a great job of reporting on methodology, new record sets, and case studies. You can learn more about blog posts to read by using Randy Seaver's "[Best of...](#)" [weekly list](#) or other similar lists.
18. **Work on a Research Plan.** Now's a good time to consult library and archival catalogues and your family tree and come up with a research plan. One of my favorite explanations on creating a genealogical research plan is the online article, "[Creating a Genealogy Research Plan Like a Detective](#)" by [Kimberly Powell](#).
19. **Document an heirloom.** Have a family heirloom or something you hope will become an heirloom? How about taking some time to photograph it and explain its provenance? Explain what it is, what its importance is to your family, its history and where it should end up when you are no longer around.
20. **Take a virtual trip to your ancestral home.** Sure, you might not be able to travel right now but we are so lucky to be able to access places virtually. How about using [Google Maps](#) or [Google Earth](#), [HistoryPin](#) or even [What Was There](#)? To access historical maps and images.

Stuck at home? That's ok, there's plenty to do! Look at your family history and decide what you'd like to accomplish.

*Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, instructor, and researcher. She blogs at [Gena's Genealogy and Food.Family.Ephemera](#). You can find her presentations on the [Legacy Family Tree Webinars website](#).*



## Family History News

### **A message from our friends at FamilySearch**

Dear Friends,

Many people around the world are staying home and at a safe distance from each other to slow the spread of COVID-19. This is a crucial time to combine our efforts to build and strengthen meaningful connections. We have an opportunity to provide comfort and healing to those who may feel vulnerable or alone.

Sharing common experiences with others can bring us closer. FamilySearch provides a number of simple activities for all ages that are designed to bridge the distance between loved ones. These activities can be done with those closest to us at home or through social media. You can find activities to enjoy at [FamilySearch.org/discovery](https://www.familysearch.org/discovery).

We will continue to add new activities to help inspire you and those you love. I invite you to check FamilySearch.org regularly to see what's new.

We wish you peace and joy as you connect with those closest to you.

Warmest Regards,

Steve Rockwood, FamilySearch CEO



### **Do you have German ancestors?**

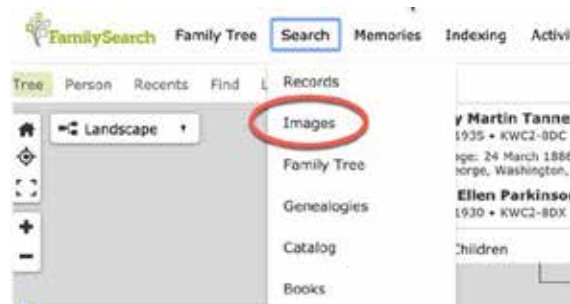
familytree magazine has a number of German resources:

- 6 websites for deciphering old German script
- Online German Script translators and resources
- Germanic Alphabet Chart

Access the website with this information and more [HERE](#).

### **City of Sydney Archives & History Resources**

The City of Sydney has upgraded their [Archives & History Resources website](#). You can browse their collections as well as being able to search across the site using the simple or advanced search options. If you set up an account on the site you can add search results to your collection and come back to them at any time. Some resources such as the Assessment Books and Sands Directory are still located on the old website but links on the new site will take you there. If you have any comments on the new system, please email [archives@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:archives@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).



### **What Life Was Like During the Spanish Flu of 1918**

You've probably seen articles comparing the Corona virus and COVID-19 to the Spanish Flu. But beyond the numbers, what was life like during the Spanish Flu of 1918/1919?

Social historian Lori Lyn Price has some answers. Click [HERE](#) to access the podcast & read about more resources.

*Used with permission from Amy Johnson Crow.*

### **How to Find Family History on YouTube in 5 Steps**

Family history can be found in many places. The great news is that the closets in your home are not the only place where you can potentially find old film footage pertaining to your family's past. The largest online video repository in the world is YouTube (which is owned by Google), and it is the perfect place to look for film.

Click [HERE](#) to go to Lisa Louise Cooke's webpage.

*Used with permission from Lisa Louise Cooke*

## **GSQ in your local BCC library - Free But Booking Required**

Brisbane City Council Libraries are closed for the foreseeable future due to the Covid-19 virus. You may still return books at the after hours book drop.

Family History News

**Social Distancing and The Family History Guide**

We have heard a lot lately about social distancing. Over the past two weeks, my very busy calendar became completely empty. However, I realized that I was already pretty well socially distant and the only real adjustments I had to make was in filling up the empty spots with choices from the huge list of "projects" that I had been postponing. One thing I have been doing all along is working on [The Family History Guide website](#). This era of social distancing freed up more time to spend on the website as well as initiating clean up projects and other usually non-essential activities.

One thing that I try to do and will do more of is to take time to learn. One way I do that is to choose blog post topics that require research. I suggest that you take a close look at all the information and activities in The Family History Guide. I don't consider this time of social distancing to be a vacation. It is really an opportunity to do a lot of things that were falling through the cracks while I was so busy with classes and presentations. For example, we have been spending about 12 to 20 hours a week involved with the BYU Family History Library. Now that the library is closed indefinitely, we have almost two full days of time just from that one commitment.

As you look through *The Family History Guide*, you will find a lot of suggestions that will suggest activities that will involve you more in genealogy. You will likely see a lot more writing coming from me as time goes on. If you have any topics you would like me to cover, let me know by email, comments on the blogs, Facebook, or whatever.

*These articles are  
Courtesy of Genealogy's Star (James Tanner)*

**Are you interested in catching up via a one-on-one or group video chat with people at GSQ during this enforced closure? If you are contact Ailsa on [tag@gsq.org.au](mailto:tag@gsq.org.au) or if you have suggestions for GSQ contact Helen Veivers at [president@gsq.org.au](mailto:president@gsq.org.au).**

**Will Family History Survive Social Distancing?**

With the closure of Societies, Family History Centres, Archives, and other repositories, and not to forget the impact of social distancing, as genealogists, some of us are wondering how we do our work? Of course, we can do a lot online, but some of us were mainly involved in helping other genealogists. I guess my question is do these genealogists who need help realize that we can still provide direct, individual help online?

There are presently a number of free programs that allow one-on-one or group video and audio support capabilities. Some of the programs you can use for these video calls include the following:

- Zoom
- Skype
- Google Hangouts Meet
- Free Conference Call
- Microsoft Teams

The more I look online, the more options I find.

Here is the concept. You are sitting at your computer frustrated because you need help. Normally, you would go to your Genealogical Society for help. You live somewhere that is encouraging (or ordering) people to remain in their homes. What do you do? You call one of these people who would normally help you and get online with one of these meeting programs and work through the problems.

What are the difficulties? You need a fairly robust and fast network connection. You need the technical expertise to connect and share your screen. You need to realize that you can get help to connect and help to answer genealogical questions.

You can do the same thing online and all of you out there who normally help people in a Library or Family History Center can also do the same thing.

Let's get to work helping people during this social distancing time in our lives.



**Take a tour**

of hot of the press new features:

<http://youtu.be/fyT4XYY5Cvs>

**Discover**

the latest headlines, tips and information:

<http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/trove-preview>



## Family History News

### 7 Ways to Make the Most of Your Ancestry Subscription

(No Ancestry subscription? Don't worry most of these tips will work for other genealogy subscription sites too. So, if you love Find My Past, The Genealogist or My Heritage than this article is still worth a read)

The cost of genealogy data sites (like an *Ancestry* subscription) can soon add up. So it can be pretty frustrating when our searches don't yield the results we were hoping for. Everyone likes to get more '*bang for their buck*'. So let's milk *Ancestry* and co for everything they've got! Because, believe me, there's lots to discover beneath the '*search all*' surface.

1. **Choose from the menu** All data subscription sites, like *Ancestry*, have some sort of A to Z of records. A full list of everything available within the website. In *Ancestry*'s case, it's called the '*Card Catalogue*'. Access it via the search menu. If you are performing a 'search all' and not seeing a record you'd expect to find – then double-check the *Card Catalogue*.
2. **Search for hidden gems** Whilst browsing the *Card Catalogue* keep your eyes peeled for *Ancestry*'s other gems. The un-transcribed records. Included in your *Ancestry* subscription, but rarely shouted about. These records can sometimes be tricky to spot. For example, the record set "*London, England, Poor Law & Board of Guardian Records, 1738-1926*" is not indexed. If you navigate to the record set you'll notice that the usual search boxes are visible. This is a red herring. Instead, locate the '*browse*' section on the right-hand side of the page. From here you can select your borough, parish and record type of interest. Now you can view the original documents.
3. **Books** *Ancestry*'s '*un-transcribed*' collection boasts a host of books. One of the best ways to find these is to filter by place of interest. Then select '*stories, memories and histories*'. There are 100s of books from a wide range of periods. Some are very obscure – like "*The Blizzard in the West – 1891*". This is a historical account of a "disastrous storm". It features real accounts of a hurricane that affected the south-west of England. An ideal read for anyone who had ancestors living in the affected area at the time.
4. **Images** Don't leave the *Card Catalogue* yet. There's more to discover. This time filter by place and then select 'pictures'. Here you'll find a collection of image-based records. Photos of people and places. I particularly like the Armistice photos within the "*UK, Historical Photographs and Prints, 1704-1989*" data set.
5. **Set cousin bait with Comments** When you view a source on *Ancestry* there is a menu option on the right-hand side that allows you to view the records 'details', 'related' items and 'source'. Underneath this is a comment box. Adding comments to sources is an excellent way of setting some cousin bait. Your user name and comments will be visible to anyone viewing the record in the future. They can click on your user name and send you a message. It's a great way of connecting with those with the same or similar research interests. Even if you don't comment yourself, make sure you save records of interest to your tree and/or shoebox. Doing so means that, whenever someone else comments on the record, you'll see a note on your *Ancestry* homepage. This method also works if you are making corrections. Any corrections you make to a record are visible to others – and visa versa.
6. **Make a Public Tree** Now, this is a controversial topic. Some people, myself included, have had bad experiences with public trees. Like discovering that some Dopey Dora has taken your tree and made your English granny the parent of a child born in Outer Mongolia 10 years after she died. Let's just say, it's frustrating. So too is having your research copied without any note of source acknowledgement. BUT, if these things irk you, don't dismay! You can still have a public tree. Use a skeleton tree. Just names, birth and death dates. Direct line only. Why? Because now your DNA matches can assess your tree to see how you may be related. You've got something to point them too. "*Take a look at my tree, I think we are connected via X...*".
7. **Advanced filtering** Avoid searching for a needle in a haystack. Otherwise known as a William Davies in Wales. Now, I will forgive you for thinking that I'm about to recommend putting a year and/or place of birth into your search criteria. But that's not what I'm talking about. I mean, you can do that, but there are often valid reasons for not doing it! Like having a wide birth year range or a place of birth that's vague or huge (born in Ireland is a classic). I'm advocating for cohabiting searches. Finding good old William Davies is much easier if you can search for him with his wife and kids. It's a way of narrowing down your results. *Ancestry* allows you to search for an individual with their: mother, father, siblings, spouses and/or children.

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Family History News

**Online access to newspapers**

This month the focus is on newspapers which provide a wonderful source of information for family historians. Using newspapers we can find out more about our individual ancestors as well as details of the locations in which they lived and the events and cultural context of the periods in which they lived.

It would be impossible to list here all of the relevant sites but these should get you started. Many of these sites also contain more than just newspapers so who knows what you might find.

**Australia** - for Australian newspapers there is no better site than [Trove](#) with broad coverage of all states, both metropolitan and regional newspapers. It also has a small range of international newspapers from nearby nations such as Papua New Guinea.

**New Zealand** - if you have ancestors who spent time in New Zealand you should look at the [Papers Past](#) website which has a large range of digitised newspapers from across both islands.

**International** - many of the international newspaper archives are accessible only by subscription however there are other ways you can access these sites.

**Elephind** - The goal of [Elephind.com](#) is to make it possible to search all the world's online historic newspapers from one place. We aren't there yet, but we are adding more newspapers every day. With Elephind.com it is now possible for family historians, genealogists, and researchers to search historic digitized newspaper archives from around the globe. Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but is focused on only historical, digitized newspapers. It enables you to search, for free, across many newspaper sites simultaneously, rather than having to visit each site separately. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you you'll go directly to the newspaper site which hosts that story.

If you have a library card from the State Library QLD you can access a wide range of newspaper collections from home for free on the State Library of QLD's eResources site. You can join [SLQ online](#) for instant access. [SLQ eResources](#) is the gateway to online access.

Available collections include the Gale 17th to 20th century British newspapers and periodicals, ProQuest historical newspapers, British Newspaper Archive, Times Digital Archive (London Times newspaper 1785-2012), Irish Newspaper Archive, Illustrated London News 1842-2003, The Age (Melbourne) library edition 2006-2020, Sydney Morning Herald archives 1955-1995, Sydney Morning Herald library edition 2006-2020.

Some sites, such as the Irish Newspaper Archive, are free to search but you need to subscribe and pay to view the full text.

**5 Common Genealogy Errors (and How to Avoid Them)**

1. **Ages that don't add up:** Do you have an ancestor who was born before her parents? How about a great-great-grandmother who gave birth at the age of 60 (or at the age of 6)? Incorrect dates can topple your hard-earned research and raise head-scratching questions.
2. **Data copied from family trees:** With millions of online family trees on sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage, it's hard not to peek at someone else's family tree from time to time. However, copying another user's tree without verifying it first is a recipe for genealogical disaster. The information the user found may apply to another person with a similar name (see No. 5), or the data may be incorrect altogether.
3. **Incorrect record indexes:** Digitized, indexed records have made genealogy easier than ever before. And indexes on the big genealogy sites make most records keyword searchable, allowing you to survey far more records than traditional methods allowed. But since volunteers or algorithms indexed records collections by the thousands, not all of these indexes are perfect.
4. **Typos in names or dates:** Unfortunately, family trees don't have spell-check. And even if they did, we still would struggle with avoiding typos in our family trees. Add to this that spelling wasn't usually a priority for our ancestors (many of whom couldn't read), and you'll understand how easy it is for misspellings to find their way into your family data. These can throw off your research and prevent you from getting matched up with other relevant records in online databases.
5. **Incorrect record indexes:** Speaking of names: Your family tree may be cursed with a John Smith or a William Jones. (After all, we can't all have a unique name like "Hannah Montana"! ) What if you've got the wrong John Smith? Having the wrong person in your tree can be disastrous, wasting your valuable research time and steering you away from records of your actual ancestors.