

## Issue 163

May 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

May 2020

**How times have changed!** As I sit at my computer tapping out these few words I can't help but reflect on how our lives have changed over recent weeks. Does it seem to you that way back in the distant past we went about our lives without a care?? It certainly does to me. The biggest regret I have, however, is that I failed to start a detailed record of events as they've unfolded. There is no doubt that this will be remembered in history as a period in time which changed the world.

Having said all of the above, for those not in the workforce, this event has provided an ideal opportunity to work on family history research and/or writing. Have you accessed the databases available through MyGSQ on our website? I know many members have. (If you've had difficulty in accessing this resource, full instructions are included in this edition of eNews.) Writing in the "Family Tree Newsletter" professional genealogist, Susie Douglas, suggests that the COVID-19 Lockdown provides the ideal opportunity for us to bring our ancestors to life using the resources from within our own memory bank. Examples include descriptions of mannerisms of key people, objects in everyday life etc. These types of recollections will really help us bring our ancestors to life and will be absolutely priceless for generations to come.

Members of GSQ were indeed privileged to be able to listen to two presentations by DNA guru, Angie Bush, on Easter Saturday, 11 April. Originally, Angie was to come to Stackpole Street to present, but these arrangements were forced to change. I would like to thank the members of GSQ's DNA Special Interest Group and, in particular, Helen Smith, Bobbie Edes, Ailsa Corlett and Judy Lofthouse, for the number of hours expended in organising this event. Not only was the event enjoyed by all who participated, but also it raised some much needed funds for GSQ. As you will have noticed, our Education Program, one of GSQ's largest money earners, has come to a complete stop. We are, however, working to try to arrange some alternatives.

**Stop Press:** At last Monday's Management Committee meeting a decision was made to purchase a Pro Subscription to Zoom for use by GSQ's Special Interest Groups., Management Committee etc The Pro level of subscription allows a meeting to extend beyond the 40 minute timeframe for the Free Basic version. Our wonderful TAG convenor, Ailsa Corlett, ably assisted by Bobbie Edes, has developed a set of instructions for use. SIG convenors are encouraged to make use of this resource to connect with their members at this time. Contact Ailsa ([tag@gsq.org.au](mailto:tag@gsq.org.au)) or myself ([president@gsq.org.au](mailto:president@gsq.org.au)) for further information.

As you can imagine the proposed timeline for Amalgamation, as published in Communique 4, will be impacted by COVID-19. Until we are advised of when various events are able to be conducted, the extent of this impact is impossible to gauge. The Amalgamation Committee is continuing to meet using the Zoom platform.

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



### Getting the most out of FamilySearch

A Zoom Presentation in Your Own Home by Cathie Sherwood  
Saturday, 6 June 9.00am – 11.00am.

Members \$25 Non Members \$40. [Book via GSQ Website.](#)



## GSQ Notices

### Monday Morning Natters

Monday Morning Natters-Monday May 4 10am -12 noon has been converted to a Zoom meeting. Judy will email with details.

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

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will be producing the next edition of their online historical BDM Bulletin in the near future and are calling for submissions from GSQ members – stories and/or pieces of information. Queensland focus preferred, of course. All contributions need to be emailed to Jacqueline Jeffs at [Jacqueline.Jeffs@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Jeffs@justice.qld.gov.au) no later than **Friday 8 May 2020**.



### 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

With Lots of help from the Web Master Graeme, and Management Committee we have been able to establish a portal for members to access some of the Subscription Sites online giving you access from home.

These are: *Findmypast*; *TheGenealogist*; *RootsIreland*; and *The Biographical Database of Australia*.

Unfortunately due to our Library having the Institutional Version of Ancestry, we cannot offer members access to this as it is accessed only via one IP Address.

However as the Queensland State Library, the Brisbane City Council and a number of the other Councils in the area have been able to offer the Library Edition of Ancestry to their members to use, we are directing you in that direction for the use of Ancestry.

It has been pleasing to know that many people are accessing these databases from home, and we hope that you are able to continue with your Family History research during this time period.

Ailsa Corlett, [tag@gsq.org.au](mailto:tag@gsq.org.au)





## 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.

### 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

### JUNE

- 2 June - *Sources for Landed and Titled People* by Paul Milner.
- 3 June - *"What are the Odds?" An online tool that can help solve DNA puzzles* by Jonny Perl.
- 6 June - *Using DNA to Answer Real Research Questions: Three Case Studies* by Gail Blankenau.
- 23 June - *Working with SuperSearch™ to Find the Correct Historical Record* by Tal Erlichman and Daniel Horowitz.
- 30 June - *The 1939 Register for Family Historians* by Fiona Brooker.

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 face to face interest group meetings are postponed for the foreseeable future. Discussions are underway about organising virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.***

### **DNA SIG**

Despite the closure of GSQ and most of our community being house bound, our DNA SIG group admin members have continued to work hard in the background to keep things going, albeit in a different way.

Initially our planned DNA live presentation with Angie Bush on 11 April was cancelled and then Helen Smith and Angie worked out an alternative via a live webinar, so tickets went back on sale again. The DNA Admin team had many practices and via Helen's GoToMeeting portal, the presentations ran smoothly and were a huge success. Many emails of appreciation have been received by the team since. It is planned to run another 'one off' GTM event for the ticket-holders only, as some missed the original screening for various reasons. Angie has given her permission for our backup recording to be screened once on **Saturday 2 May at 9am**. Thanks to all who purchased tickets to the event, the proceeds were a much needed boost to the GSQ funds.

Whilst the lockdown conditions continue, our normal DNA SIG monthly meetings will continue as normal via the GoToMeeting portal with one held on Sunday 26 April from 9:30am until 1pm. It is hoped that many members will take advantage of this extra learning from their home. The May meeting is scheduled for **Sunday 17 May at 9:30am**.

### **DNA Drop-In Clinic**

At the recent DNA group online meeting we discussed the usual Drop In Clinic available to all GSQ members (only) and all felt it would work quite successfully through the GoToMeeting portal at the usual dates & times.

If you wish to participate then please send an email to our group email including your question and which company it refers to. Our email is dna@gsq.org.au. You will then be sent the invite link to an online meeting on Wednesday 27 May 2020 from 7pm - 8:30pm only which will be through the GoToMeeting portal. On the night we should have a number of folk available to answer problems. You will need to have your DNA results and family tree open on your computer in case it's necessary to view them at the time.

## **Redlands Branch**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Lockdown the planned meeting for the Redland Genealogical Society for 13 May will not be held. Members are further advised that Redland Libraries has extended the free use of Ancestry Library to 31 May.

### **From The National Archives – Kew, UK**

We are making digital records available on our website free of charge for as long as our Kew site is closed to visitors.

Registered users will be able to order and download up to 10 items at no cost, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of our digital services for everyone.

To access the service and download for free, users will be required to:

- Register/sign in to their *Discovery* account before adding items to their basket (maximum ten items per basket)
- Abide by the terms of our fair use policy
- Complete the order process to receive a download link, which will remain active for 30 days. (The link will also be saved in 'Your orders' in your account for 30 days)

Our usual terms of use still apply – digital copies can be downloaded for non-commercial private use and educational purposes only, and bulk downloads and web crawlers are not permitted.

Thanks to Janice Wellard for bringing this to our attention.

### **A message from Convict Connections SIG**

The topic decided upon for discussion at our June meeting is to look at ways we might be able to identify a convict ancestor's native place. If it is not recorded, where do we look? Have you been faced with a similar problem? Were you able to solve it? Any input would be appreciated.

Val Blomer

### **Two DNA webinars from Legacy Webinars in June**

- 3 June - "What are the Odds?" An online tool that can help solve DNA puzzles by Jonny Perl.
- 6 June - Using DNA to Answer Real Research Questions: Three Case Studies by Gail Blankenau.

Free for live webinar & then for the next 7 days

## 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.

Hope everyone is surviving their various kinds of social distancing and isolation. Do remember to keep in touch with your own family and friends, and also genealogical contacts. We are so lucky compared to the isolation people would have felt during the influenza pandemic, a little over one hundred years ago. We still have the world at our fingertips - and what a great time to make some progress on your family history.

Here are a few suggestions – they may apply to your family history.

Try out **Family Tree UK website** – you can join for free and get access to some interesting information, articles, etc. [HERE](#)

Revisit **FamilySearch website** – many parish registers, etc. can be viewed from home. For information on availability of records, etc. check out the FamilySearch wiki. If records are available, but unindexed, you can scroll through them, particularly if you know the approximate date of an event.

**TheGenealogist** (subscription site) is offering a package of their most useful record sets, their image archive and digital magazines for beginners to use for 3 months. No card details, no subscription, just completely free. [Click HERE](#)

**Lost Cousins website** – useful for English ancestors. It works by matching information (transcribed data of participants' ancestors and other family members) from census records, particularly the 1881 census. A free newsletter comes out regularly. [Click HERE](#)

Don't forget the **GENUKI website** <https://www.genuki.org.uk/> for information about the records available for the countries, counties, towns and villages from where your UK ancestors once lived.

Many institutions and organisations are offering increased access to their records during the pandemic, just as GSQ has done. Check out what is now available. Remember to check national organisations e.g. National Archives of Australia and The National Archives UK; state organisations; local organisations and family history/genealogical associations.

Janice Wellard

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## Research Support and Chat for GSQ Members Only

### Put in your Diaries

**Monday 11th May 2020 – 2 -3pm – Weekly**

Do you have some research queries you would like to talk about or talk it out to see if your ideas are possible or not regarding one of your ancestors ?

Are you in an area in which you do not or cannot access Ancestry from the State Libraries or Councils, but need a look up ?

Are you not sure who can help or where to look in regards to some records you would like to find at present while we are in lockdown ?

Are you feeling lonely and keen to chat to other Genealogists who know how passionate you are about your Family History?

Each Monday from the 11th, I intend to run a Zoom Meeting for the members of GSQ to help answer the above.

As we cannot go into GSQ Library to access or view the records or books in there, answers will be drawn from the people present or perhaps passed on to SIG Groups who have offered to help with queries if they can and are willing to assist.

But it is amazing what a group of people can do to assist each other with ideas of what and where to search next. Have you done this or that? Have you considered this spelling etc etc.?

Regardless of if you have been doing your Family History for 1 day or many years, we all have some knowledge and information that we can pass on to others. Just that one little idea or clue just might be the thing you can pass on to someone in need so that it helps break down that Brick Wall. It might be YOUR Brick Wall that comes tumbling down.

If you just want to see everyone (apart from your own 4 walls !) and have a chat or say Hi, then this is for you as well. We belong to a great Society and we are wanting to keep in touch with as many of you as we can during this time of isolation of Covid19.

Requirements will be that you download and install free version of Zoom.

You will need to email me before the day so that I can then forward to you the LogIn details.

I can also forward to you a help sheet regarding Zoom and how to use it. This is for GSQ Members only.

Please email Ailsa Corlett on [tag@gsq.org.au](mailto:tag@gsq.org.au) your expressions of interest in joining.

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

GSQ in your local BCC library will be on the Brisbane City Council YouTube channel for the length of the COVID-19 shutdown of libraries.

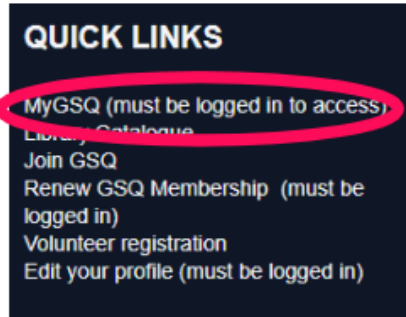
## To Access the GSQ Subscription Sites

Go to the GSQ Web Site: <https://www.gsq.org.au/>

Log in to the Web Site

If you cannot remember your Username or Password, please email Membership so that it can be reset for you.

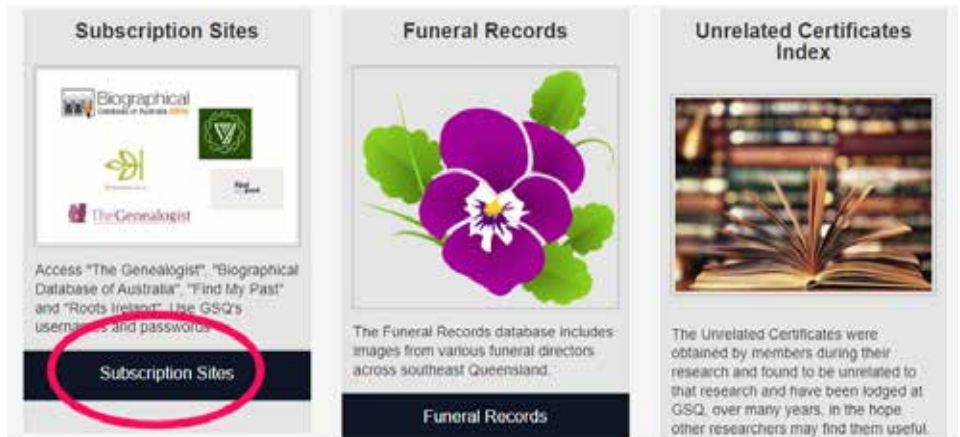
[membership@gsq.org.au](mailto:membership@gsq.org.au)



Once you are logged in, you will see on the Right Hand Side, a Black Box – Quick Links  
If you hover your mouse over the words MyGSQ will change colour. This is what you need to click on to access the MyGSQ Page.

This will then take you directly to the MyGSQ Web Page which has access to many databases, like the Funeral Directors Records; Unrelated Certificates Index etc etc.

You will also see a box titled – Subscription Sites – this is where you want to go.



You will need to use the Username and Password underneath each Subscription to access that particular database.



## Family History News

### ***Ideas in Organising your Family History Files on your Computer.***

Many of us when we first start our journey of family history have no idea on just how big or how many documents you will accumulate over time.

I am talking about your computer files that you gather over time, in relation to downloads from the various sites or scanned documents you might have which include photographs.

Usually you start off with a Folder called Family History or the Name of your Main Line, and everything goes in there.

In not too long a time things are getting harder to find. That Birth/ Death etc Certificate and just what does file No xwy1234 mean and who does it belong to. You downloaded it from Ancestry/ Findmypast or Trove and Yes it is attached to your family in your Genealogical Program, but if you want to send a copy to a family member just which one is it.

There are many ways of organising your files, this is how I do it and even it is not perfect. But it may give you some ideas to help you with some of your computer filing.

1. I have a **Second Hard Drive** in which I store all my **Data Files**. (Do not worry if you do have another drive, just as long as you keep your Family History **separate** this is the most important thing.)
2. The Major File is called **Family History**.
3. Write down on paper first, all the **Major Surnames relating to your Family**.
4. **Make Sub Folders** under your Family History Folder and call each one by the Surnames you have written down.
5. In each of these Surname **Sub Folders** create the following Folders:
  - a Births; Deaths; Marriage; Census; Immigration; Military; Wills; Photos; Misc; Maps and Unknowns. (will explain unknowns later)
  - b Within each of these Folders **create the following sub-folders**; Birth Notices; Death Notices; Marriage Notices, Census – 1841 Census through to 1911 Census ( this will depend on the area of your research, you may only have Electoral Rolls or Directories for results so adjust to your research needs).
  - c **Photos** I also divide into various family members – this depends on what I do have and have been able to obtain. I also divide into People, Cemeteries, Places (this includes houses or scenes of the area in which they lived).
  - d **Unknowns**: - I have a Folder for anything I find that I cannot fit into the family just yet BUT feel that it might fit in somewhere, someday. (Do not discard this type of information, I have found time after time, these bits and pieces often do fit into the family with further investigation later on – So my Motto is **Do Not Discard – keep in this Folder**)
  - e **Add Sub Folders as you find Information** that does not fit into any of the above lists. I have done this often depending on my research and just which country it applies to. So extras I have found are School Records; Valuation Rolls; Land Records; Police Records – Yes I have some bad, but also some that were in the Police Force; Workhouse Records; and Poor Law Records just to name a few extra.
6. Within each Sub Folder I have developed a Naming Pattern for each file I have downloaded or scanned into my computer.
  - a. Eg. INNES Family – Birth – INNES Robert Whyte b (stands for birth or baptism) 1882 Fraserburgh Aberdeenshire (these are in jpg format)
    - i. This means that each Certificate/File etc is indexed and easy to find under INNES Robert Whyte etc.

I am hoping this gives you some idea of putting your Family History data into some sort of order on your computer.

I have found by doing this it has enabled me to find the records I want when I want them.

There are many versions and variations available on the Internet. Just talking to your fellow genealogists you might find something that suits you better than the above. My method is my method and is just example of how you can organise your computer which is just one of many.

Ailsa Corlett



Family History News



Queensland Family History Society Inc

Have several new Fridays@QFHS that might be of interest to some GSQ members.

They can be found at:

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/fridays-qfhs/>

**Legacy Tree Genealogists featured on Genealogy Gems Podcast: Proof and Evidence**

The Genealogical Proof Standard tells us that we need to conduct reasonably exhaustive research in order for our work to be credible. If you've ever wondered just what constitutes "reasonable" (and if your family tree is up to snuff) Legacy Tree Genealogists researcher, Kate Eakman, visits with host Lisa Louise Cooke and provides answers. Click [HERE](#) to access.



**More Than Just Wills: The Parts of Probate**

No genealogical research prior to the 20th century is complete without a search for probate records. Most of us are at least a little familiar with these sorts of documents, although perhaps only through words and documents which affect us even in the 21st century such as "wills" and "estates."

In short, probate is the broad term for the process by which a deceased individual's worldly possessions are legally divided and debts are paid upon his or her death. How this has functioned has changed in various ways over the centuries and it can be a very involved topic; however, the basic concepts are ones with which every serious genealogist should familiarize himself or herself.

This article is not meant to be in any way comprehensive, but to educate those not familiar with the topic with a broad overview. Read the full article from Legacy Tree Genealogists [HERE](#).



**New Ancestry DNA feature connecting matches to your tree**



Ancestry has unveiled a new convenient feature: the ability to link a DNA match to their entry in your tree. No one can see the resulting tag but you or someone with whom you have shared your DNA results

Click [HERE](#) to read Kitty's explanation.

**A reading list to stay home with**

My favorite new book about DNA and genealogy is *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are* by Libby Copeland which is as suitable for your less addicted family members as it is for you, my fellow seekers. I like the term seeker that Libby uses for those of us who are loving using DNA for solving family mysteries and genealogy puzzles.

A Suggested DNA Reading List:

- *The Lost Family*
- *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived*
- *She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity*
- *Genome: The Autobiography Of A Species In 23 Chapters*

And reading relevant to pandemics:

- *The Great Influenza: the story of the deadliest pandemic in history*

Kitty's blog can be accessed [HERE](#).

**University of Tasmania**

The [Diploma of Family History](#) provides a comprehensive study package that will assist researchers interested in exploring their family past to place that information within a wider context.

It provides students with opportunities to learn, and then consolidate and advance, skills and knowledge and introduces awareness of ethics and discipline practices that will enable students to communicate their findings with diverse audiences appropriately.

The Diploma of Family History is a fully online course. It comprises eight units, and is available solely to domestic students.

An interesting opportunity to enhance your skill and knowledge.



Family History News

**New records from England and North America available from FindMyPast**

We've added over 2.8 million records to our extensive burial collection this week, including;

**Greater London Burial Index**

Over 31,000 new records covering 10 parishes across the Greater London area have been added to this unique collection. The records consist of transcriptions of the original burial record, from 1754 to 1812

**Surrey Burials**

Over 450,000 additional transcripts of burial records from the South East of England have been added to this exclusive collection. All parishes have been updated, significantly in some cases. Check our parish list for details of the parishes and timeframes covered.

**United States BillionGraves Index**

More than 2.1 million records have been added to our cemetery index for the United States.

The BillionGraves index is a great resource if you're looking for information about your ancestor's death. It includes over 21 million headstone records for the United States alone. Each entry includes a transcript of what's included in the record, a photograph of the gravestone, and GPS details of the precise location of the gravestone. So you can see your ancestor's grave without ever leaving the comfort of your home.

**Canada BillionGraves Index**

We've also added over 97,000 records to our BillionGraves cemetery index for Canada.

Headstones are a great resource for family history. They provide vital information about your ancestors, such as birth and death dates and may also provide additional details about their lives. Gravestone inscriptions can show family relationships, societies or organisations your ancestors may have been part of, military rank or affiliation, religious denomination and more. They could even reveal those missing clues you need to overcome a tricky 'brick wall' and provide guidance on where to go next in your hunt for your past.

**Newspapers**

Two new publications from England and updates to six other titles sees our newspaper collection bolstered yet again. Brand new to the collection this week are:

- West Bridgford Advertiser covering the years 1915, 1922-1926 and 1928-1930
- Beds and Herts Pictorial covering the years 1921-1923, 1925, 1931 and 1933

As well as those brand new additions, the following six titles, including a couple of leading regional papers from North West England, have been updated:

- Derby Daily Telegraph covering the years 1986 and 1988
- Manchester Evening News covering the years 1904-1905 and 1907
- Liverpool Echo with the year 1887
- Huddersfield Daily Chronicle with the year 1898
- Blyth News covering the years 1898-1904 and 1931-1939
- Somerset Standard covering the years 1890, 1892, 1898-1899, 1932-1952 and 1962-1970

**Don't forget, you can access FindMyPast, TheGenealogist, RootsIreland, and Biographical Database of Australia during GSQ's closure from home via MyGSQ.**

**How to Analyze Genealogical Sources**

Our good friend *James Tanner* writes some blog posts about Genealogical Sources

Now to begin: Part One

Many fields of study have a very specialized set of terms usually referred to as "jargon. My own profession, the legal profession is known for its arcane and almost impenetrable jargon but that is also the case with medicine and many other specialized professions. Genealogists also have a certain amount of jargon but it is certainly not as specialized or arcane as law or medicine.

As I have written about previously, over the years, genealogists have adopted and tried to adapt, mostly unsuccessfully, some of the more common legal terms particularly those dealing with the legal *Rules of Evidence*. I say unsuccessfully because only a very small number of genealogists understand or correctly use the evidentiary terms. The rest of the genealogical "jargon" is pretty mundane, not too specialized and hardly impenetrable. Unfortunately, the particular part of genealogy that has adopted the most "jargon" is that part having to do with "evidence." To read further on James' analysis click [HERE](#). James has published three parts so far that can be accessed by his blog.



## Family History News

### **Genealogy during Quarantine: 5 Things to Do When the Library Is Closed**

Not able to visit the library during this time of coronavirus quarantine, social distancing, and establishments being closed? All is not lost. There are so many services libraries offer their patrons, and the public in general, that even if you can't visit in person, you can still benefit from a virtual library visit.

#### **1. Databases**

Membership has its privileges – and that's also true of library "membership." One benefit of having a library card is access to online subscription databases, many (but not all) from the comfort of your home by simply entering the bar code numbers on your library card. While some of the databases have nothing to do with genealogy, they may hold information that can be of real benefit to your research. Smaller libraries may not have much to offer, database-wise, but larger city libraries and academic libraries have a rich selection (once again a reason to have more than one library card).

*Genealogy Tip:* Explore all the databases your library offers, not just the ones labeled "genealogy." Those labeled as history, periodicals, and even reference works can be just as useful to the family historian.

Take a look at your local library's website for available databases, and then explore the databases available from other libraries of interest. If you are eligible for a library card, it could be beneficial to have more than one.

#### **2. Catalogs**

Oh, the library catalogue – my favorite part of a library's website! Why? Because it's here that you can search for relevant resources and plan for your next research trip. However, as you get ready to explore the library catalogue, don't make the mistake that most of us commit: don't just start searching the library catalogue. Make sure that you take some time to read any FAQs or search tips before you conduct your search. We don't always use online resources as well as we should – so it's important to understand what the catalogue has and hasn't, and the best way to search.

Start your research by exploring the world's library catalogue [WorldCat](#) to find resources at libraries near you.

By entering your zip code, WorldCat shows results according to what participating (and hopefully nearby) libraries have an item you're searching for. FamilySearch is one of the libraries that participates in WorldCat, so it's a great resource for finding other libraries that have materials found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

#### **3. Research Guides**

I love research guides, and large libraries have all kinds. Research guides provide information on a topic and resources to learn more. Take for instance the research guides available from the *Newberry Library (Chicago, Illinois)* in their [Genealogy and Local History section](#). You don't have to have Chicago or Illinois ancestors to benefit from these research guides:

Other large libraries have research guides, so make sure to explore their websites.

You can also find research guides by using the website LibGuides Community. Search by topic of interest or library name.

#### **4. Read Books**

It's wonderful to live in a time when you have so many choices in how you access library resources. I love to go visit libraries, but that isn't always practical. You can use online sources such as databases and the library catalog when you can't visit the library in person to use what is physically there. And don't forget to use your library's app to find books, access databases, and even renew your books.

There are also third-party apps that allow you to check out ebooks and audio books. Libby is an app found in the Apple and Google Play app stores.

Libby allows you to borrow ebooks and audio books instantly for free from participating libraries. So even if your library is closed, you can still find relevant resources to use. Libby also allows you to enter multiple library cards so that you can check out all the ebooks and audio books you want in one convenient place.

#### **5. Digitized Books Everywhere**

I love access to digitized books for genealogical research. In some cases, a library may have books they have digitized and uploaded to their website or to a partner's website. One example is [Internet Archive's Genealogy collection](#).

This collection includes digitized books from: [Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center](#); [Robarts Library at the University of Toronto](#); [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library](#); [Brigham Young University](#); [National Library of Scotland](#); [Indianapolis City Library's Indianapolis City Directory and Yearbooks Collection](#); [Leo Baeck Institute Archives](#); [Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research](#); and [Boston Public Library](#).

FamilySearch's Digital Library includes digitized books from their collections as well as 12 other participating libraries. You can learn more at the [FamilySearch Digital Library homepage](#).

**The above libraries are in the United States but have worldwide collections so worth a look.  
Libraries Are Open 24/7 – Even When They Are Not**