

GETTING AN EDUCATION FOR GENEALOGY – Part 2

P.: Hi Family Diggers and welcome to Part 2 of Getting an Education for Genealogy. I'm Paul Hendee, and I'm here with Carolyn Lancaster to talk with you today about websites, blogs and podcasts. Where shall we start, Carolyn?

C: Well, for beginners it might make some sense to define all three types of tools we are talking about. A Podcast is like a radio show – you listen to it. Most times there are transcripts available of each show, and those are mostly found via the creator's website. Blogs are like written newsletters – there is no listening option. Some will be on one topic per issue, and others will have several topics per issue. The website can be the home base for all of it. The website will often link you to the blog, the podcast, the YouTube channel (which is like watching a TV show), the Facebook page and just be getting started. An example: Ancestral Findings.com has a website, a podcast, and a transcription of the podcast that is put onto the website. This is one podcast that I rarely miss. If the author is talking about something that I want to remember, like a site name or address, I either write it down at the time, or I can look at the transcript to find it. This leaves me free to do dishes, cook, or just chill while I listen.

P: Another difference between podcasts and webinars is that you can listen and/or or pause at any point you choose and pick it up again without having to search for where you left off - convenient if you get interrupted.

C: Our Family Digging.com website is primarily a place to access our podcasts and transcriptions of the podcasts. We have begun building links and a digital library, free for the use of those who subscribe. (Free) We keep it simple.

P: So let's move into where we can get an education for genealogy – beginning with the websites. [We have links to each of these sites for you at the end of this transcript.] In addition to FamilySearch's wiki, discussed further in a moment, beginners' tutorials can be found on: LearnWebSkills.com. Dr. Debbie Duay has a good grasp on what you need to know early in the process. This is a good beginner course. She also has a handout from a talk she gave on where to go to find the information you need when applying for membership in lineage societies like DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). Applications for such societies are not beginner-level lessons. But when you are ready, this is a good site to find what you need and where to find it. (Free)

And we talked last session about the YouTube channels we liked. Elevenses with Lisa, Genealogy Gems, Amy Johnson Crow, Aimee Cross, and Genealogy TV with Constance Knox are particularly good for beginners as well as more experienced genealogists. They also have websites.

C: Genealogy.com has a number of resources for developing your research skills. They are now in read-only mode, but still very worthwhile stuff. They also have many family trees that are searchable. I found my grandmother's family tree done by a member

of her mother's family, fully sourced, going from Gram back to her immigrant ancestors. Saved me a lot of time, but I still had to go verify each of those sources, give them better citations, and keep finding more basic information to fill in the blanks. I also wanted to dive deeper into the lives of each of these folks and their collateral family members. One of several ongoing projects.

P: Rootsweb.com is a site that was one of the most popular (and free) genealogy websites that there was until Ancestry.com purchased it. There are still some things that you can access on it. Other things can now be accessed on Ancestry.com. (For instance, Ancestry digitized the reference book, *The Source* as one of its foundational sources for the Ancestry.com wiki. It started on Rootsweb. There are also many thousands of family trees on Rootsweb. Early in the process of your research, it is a good idea to see what has been done before, so you aren't spending all your time attempting to reinvent the wheel. Rootsweb is one place really worth searching. But like any tree, you need to prove for yourself for every fact, what is true and then cite the sources that prove it.

TheGenealogyGuide.com is another fairly comprehensive site for beginners to explore. It seems that more and more genealogists are hooking up links with Owain, the owner, which is a good sign.

And Ancestry Academy is a free offering of Ancestry.com, offering classes on genealogy and also how-tos to get familiar with their website and technology.

C: Wikis are a great way to find what you need to know in order to begin your research. This one is fundamental: Family Search's research wiki is just terrific. It is the very first place I go to find out where I need to go. It gives you history, boundaries, maps, events, types of records available, information on a location, when records began, what records have been destroyed, where to find genealogy records, both on their site and on other sites. (Free) And it is global in scope. It includes excellent lessons for beginners that are VERY helpful. Honestly, the more you use it and increase your knowledge of how to do genealogy, the better you will like it. It has over 98,000 articles to help you. Do yourself a favor and spend some time exploring this wiki - you will be glad you did.

Another place to search by location is US Gen Web, another all-volunteer project which you search by State, county and sometimes it breaks down to towns. I have discovered a number of people by using the resources recommended by US Gen Web. However, the coverage is uneven. Some places have great information, while others have nothing. (And Covid has not helped.) But give it a try - it's free and may have interesting ways for you to learn more about your ancestors.

P: Another type of place to explore are links sites. These can save you considerable time when you are looking for resources that will help you find your ancestors, and they will open new places to look for what you need. These are very valuable sites, for beginners and experts alike. Family Search's wiki is, in part, a links site. But FamilySearch.org also has a learning center. From the wiki, look into

the Learning Center to find live and archived classes - over a thousand of them, many with handouts. Also, they are the major sponsor of the largest genealogy conference in the world each year. Go to Rootstech.org to find most sessions for the past two years. Their 2022 3-day virtual session was held the first weekend in March with over 1,000 classes. (And this doesn't even count Family Search's massive records collections, books and unpublished manuscripts and genealogies.)

Now let's go further into wikis. linkpendium.com is like Google for genealogy. It is USA focused. The creators went to every county in every state to find what genealogical resources exist and where to find them. There are over 10 million links to genealogy sites currently available, searchable by state, then county. Then be amazed at all the things you can link to - what a great resource! Unlike the FamilySearch wiki, Linkpendium does not have tutorials to learn how to research genealogy at a beginning level. But their main page is thorough, showing you how to navigate their site. And they have a good number of things that the Family Search wiki doesn't cover.

C: Then there is Access Genealogy. They provide links two main ways. First, you can search by location. A list of states runs down the right-hand side of the main page. Second, you can search by topic or surname. These links are all free. They lead to many digitized books and other important information. They have a large site, and they are very interested in Native American genealogy, so the resources there are rich indeed. You need to know about the location you are searching in to know how best to go about doing the actual ancestor searches. If you take the time to do location research, you will never

regret it - in the long haul it saves you time and errors. Links sites provide some location sources but are also the most productive ways to find out where to go to get the information you need.

The final links site we want to talk about today is The Ancestor Hunt. This started out as a place to find historic newspapers, but it has grown into one of the most useful sites in genea-world. They now have 21 categories of links: newspapers, obituaries, year books, alumni records, vital records, and way more. You search by type of source. What a great tool!

P: Finally, there are podcasts. Needless to say, perhaps, but we are partial to podcasts. We enjoy offering our Family Digging podcast; however, we also like a number of others. Carolyn already mentioned Ancestral Findings. Family Tree Magazine also has a good one, as does The Genealogy Guys, as does Extreme Genes with Scott Fisher and others. You can find these podcasts and others by going to their website for a link to the recordings. As you have probably noticed, many of these publishers/creators have several types offerings, so you have choices as to how you want to hear what they have to offer.

C: Well folks, this is all we have time for today. We urge you to take a copy of the transcript, found on our website, familydigging.com, to access the links to all the places we discussed today. And we hope you will join us next time for Part 3 of Getting an Education for Genealogy. We'll be talking about libraries, archives, historical, lineage and genealogical societies - and what excellent value they provide

genealogy seekers. We encourage you to subscribe to get notified of our next session and to access our digital library. Until then,

Happy Digging!

Paul and Carolyn

PODCASTS WE LIKE:

<https://familydigging.com>

<https://genealogyguys.com>

<https://ancestralfindings.com>

<https://extremegenes.com>

<http://familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>

Genealogy Gems At <https://lisalouisecooke.com>

Research Like a Pro At <https://familylocket.com>

<https://amyjohnsoncrow.com>

PLACES FOR TUTORIALS AND LEARNING

<https://familysearch.org> – you must register to access their records, learning center and other features. It is free. Once done, access the Learning Center for thousands of classes available, many with handouts. Also, they own <https://rootstech.org> which produces the largest family history conference in the world. The sessions from the past two years, most with handouts, are freely available. Good stuff!

<https://learnwebskills.com> – Dr. Debbie Duay’s site. Researching Your Family Tree (free tutorial) is good for beginners.

<https://genealogy.com> has many articles that will help you, as well as a search engine and more.

<https://thegenealogyguide.com> – is packed full of tips.

<https://ancestryacademy.com>

[LINKS SITES AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE FINDING AIDS](#)

<https://familysearch.org/en/wiki>

<http://www.linkpendium.com>

<https://ldsgenealogy.com> – a new find, and a really good one.

<https://usgenweb.org>

<https://theancestorhunt.com>

<https://accessgenealogy.com>

<https://cyndislist.com>

<https://home.rootsweb.com>

<http://familyhistorydaily.com>

<http://thoughtco.com/genealogy-4133308>

BLOGS FROM OTHER SITES THAT ARE VERY USEFUL

<https://geneamusings.com>

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca>

<https://legalgenealogist.com>

<http://sassyjanegenealogy.com>

and if that isn't enough, go to <https://cyndislist.com/blogs> for many more.

For any of the above sites, if the link does not work, just copy any of these sites into google search to be taken to the site.

