

# Family Digging Introductions

Paul, why don't you go first.

Hello Diggers. My name is Paul Edwin Hendee. I originally lived in Webster, New York - Where our family settled in 1810. Zebulon, Barbery and their ten children walked from Saratoga, New York to Webster to begin their new lives on a farm.

Growing up in Webster was great! Living on Lake Ontario surrounded by woods, apple orchards and the Great Lake Ontario, A kid just couldn't ask for more.

Living in nearby towns I had an uncle and two aunts. It felt good to know there were other Hendees. There were questions I always asked my Mother, like - why are these cousins Catholic and these cousins are not? Why are we not close to Grampa (Dad's Father)? Slowly the answers would come as I grew up and began doing my own genealogy. (I did not really get into genealogy until I retired.)

I retired from the electronic publishing and the printing industry. I was drawn to computer publishing after college while in sales at a graphic design and print shop in Rochester, New York. Working with local banks and hospitals, I helped design for their needs. I realized they needed things that, in 1979, were difficult to design. In 1984 I came across this thing called an Apple computer - and I knew where things were heading.

After developing computer workflow for local businesses, a major corporation recruited me and I began to work for the needs of major international business. This was very exciting and I was happy to be recognized by my peers; and I enjoyed the travel and meeting people. But, at age 63 - I retired.

My wife of 40 years, now of 50 years, (we grew up across the street from each other in Webster) said why don't you join this local Genealogical Society. I did! After that, it was all over but the shouting.

Utilizing my computer knowledge I started to build a family tree. During this process I shared my tree with the world. This is when I realized the need to use quality sources

and citations. People were constantly challenging my findings. Then I got an application for my home computer, a Mac desktop; I started to develop a family website. Now, I enjoy working with Carolyn to develop this podcast - for your enjoyment.

Hi there! I'm Carolyn Lancaster, and I am here today with my friend and distant cousin, Paul Hendee. Together, we are on an adventure called "The Family Digging Podcast". This particular broadcast is a bit out of order in that we should have begun the series by introducing ourselves to you, but in the spirit of "live and learn", we are doing it now instead.

Take it away Carolyn.

I am Carolyn Jean H. (Harrington) Lancaster. I grew up just after World War II in the village of Stony Brook on Long Island's North Shore, raised by parents who were especially interested in music and history. They provided their children with every possible opportunity to develop like interests. History was great training for genealogy. If you don't enjoy history when you are beginning to chart your family tree, you will soon learn to love it, I promise.

When I was ready for a full-time career, I moved to New York City (where jobs were available) and spent thirteen years in the securities industry. I began in the Research Department of a stock brokerage company. I learned how to research there, which has been very helpful throughout my career, and it was also great training for genealogy. I eventually became registered to sell all types of securities and several types of insurance.

In 1978 I married and moved to Winter Haven, Florida, amid the orange groves, where I built a good business teaching people how to plan their financial lives and invest to meet their goals. One of the basic requirements for doing business with clients in the securities field is the "Know Your Customer Rule". If you are going to be able to decide on what is appropriate to recommend to folks, you need to know a lot about them, especially to determine their risk tolerance.

That means you set aside several hours to discover all you can about someone before you make any suggestions or recommendations. And then you re-do that process regularly to learn what has changed. This is terrific for genealogy. It taught me how to interview people. And it also taught me how to evaluate information. At the end of the process, when applied to genealogy instead of financial data, you have family history data which will help form the base of your family tree. It is the most important part of starting genealogy - learning from your still living family members about what they know, learning the stories, the places, gathering the evidence and verifying it.

I retired from financial services in 2001 (after 35 years) and moved to the Treasure Coast several years later, when I had some time to think through the next chapter of my life. What did I want it to look like?

As it turns out, I want to learn all I can about where I come from - back to history again! And I particularly want to be able to share this story with my family who know next to nothing about where we come from, how we got here, and how our family has impacted their environments. (You should have seen my mother's face when I told her that she is much less German and English than she thought. She's actually more Swedish.)

I am huge on planning, so that was the first step. Then I began to learn how to convert what I had learned in life to doing genealogical research. I joined the local genealogical society and began working on my plan. I served as a library volunteer in the genealogy department of our local library, helping patrons with their projects, and I served as President of the Society in 2018. I have also shared what I have learned with other societies and beginners groups. All of this was helpful to my learning process, as are these podcasts, where I need to research and write on a regular basis.

Simultaneously, I began doing in-depth research on my own family, which continues to this day. I hope to have Part 1 completed and published within the next two years - the research, the writing, the citing of sources and indexing, placing the photos, and preparation for publication. It is a lot of work, but it is also my biggest pleasure to be doing this project. Volume 1 looks at us from my parents' generation back to their immigrant ancestors; that is 10-13 generations in our family's case. Volume 2 will tackle the European roots. And Volume 3 will be the stories and history of my own

generation, which will one day be available, at least to my family, probably after we all have passed. In the meanwhile, I am working on a family cookbook which will have recipes from all of us, from my great grandmothers on down.

The Best advice I ever received from my parents was to learn something new every day. That was great advice for my financial services career, and it is even better advice for any budding (or even an experienced) genealogist. You'll never be bored.

Paul and I want to pass on what we have learned along the way to those interested in searching for their own family roots - the places we have found useful, the mistakes we have made along the way to help you avoid really big errors and save you money, and how to fast-track via education. And we want to have some fun. We hope you will want to join us.

So, that's it for this time. See you next time on Family Digging. Bye