

Bi-Monthly Newsletter June 30, 2021



Contents for this Issue:

- Articles Published Since Last Issue
- Quality or Quantity Genealogy? 3 Sibling Rules I Follow
- If You Like Google Books – You Will LOVE HathiTrust!
- Sometimes Being THE Family Historian is Dangerous!
- Be A Bad Speller... PLEASE!

Important Notice for Readers

The Ancestor Hunt has undergone a major redesign and a new host as well. Please email me at kenmarksology@gmail.com with any problems that you encounter so that I may fix them readily.

Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?



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Sometimes, we need to call in an expert, and yes, we may have to pay a few bucks, but it's worth it.

Check out the 4,000 Pros at

[Trace.com](https://www.trace.com)

Do You Have Nordic Ancestors
Who Immigrated to the U.S.?



Check out 90 Digitized Nordic
American Newspapers [HERE](#)

Please Note: Hot Links are in [BLUE](#)



Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – June 1-30, 2021](#)
- [Free Online United States Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – June 1-30, 2021](#)
- [A Really Easy, Free Way to Make a Genealogy Timeline](#)
- [Free Online Ohio Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Ancestor Hunt – June 15, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Kentucky Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Missouri Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [20 Reasons to Declare Your Intent and Research Naturalization Records!](#)
- [Free Online Iowa Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Kansas Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Over 100 Million Online Obituary Records Available from FamilySearch](#)
- [Free Online Arkansas Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Texas Death Records and Indexes](#)
- [Did You Know That Ancestry Has 1,097 FREE Collections?](#)
- [Free Online Ohio Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online California Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Historic or Historical? That is the Question](#)
- [Free Online Arizona Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online New Mexico Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [19 Reasons Why You Should Research Passport Applications for Genealogy](#)
- [Free Online Maine Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [4 New Free Genealogy Research Quick Reference Guides](#)
- [24 Places Where You Can Find Your Ancestors Occupation](#)
- [15 Reasons to Research Funeral and Memorial Books](#)
- [Free Online South Dakota Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Dakota Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Nebraska Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [Free Online Georgia Birth Records and Indexes](#)
- [45 Reasons to Research Immigration Records](#)
- [10 Bits of Advice for New Genealogy Researchers](#)
- [Free Online Massachusetts Birth Records and Indexes](#)

New From The Newspaper Corner

- [20 Special Collections of Online Historical Newspapers](#)
- [The Easiest Way to Find Every Historical Newspaper in America](#)
- [42 Reasons to Use the My Heritage Newspaper Collection](#)
- [84 Free Online Collections from NewspaperArchive](#)
- [Did You Know That Ancestry Has 57 FREE Obituary Index Collections?](#)
- [Newspaper Research Tip – 8 Ways to Not Screw Up](#)
- [32 Reasons Why Searching for Obituaries is Like Finding Gold](#)
- [Puerto Rico Online Historical Newspapers Summary](#)
- [Easy Trick to Find Just the New and Updated Titles in Newspapers dot Com](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 29 Titles – June, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – June, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 38 Historical Newspaper Titles – June, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – June 2021](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 53 Titles – June, 2021](#)



Quality or Quantity Genealogy? 3 Sibling Rules I Follow

If you have been doing family history research for any amount of time – that should be an answer that is easy to choose. But you would be surprised at how many “genealogy types” take great pride in displaying their NUMBERS.

Some examples (NONE of these are mine by the way):

- “I” have traced my ancestry back to the 15th century
- “I” have 12,358 people in my family tree
- “I” have traced my ancestry back to Charlemagne, or the Mayflower, or Genghis Khan, or Adam

Guess what? I don’t care. Why? Because tracing one’s family history is not a competition. If you want to make it so - go for it.

To me it is all about Quality. I would rather know that my great great grandfather was born in Kolmar (AKA Chodziesen and now Chodzież) on July 2, 1825 and was the first of any of my ancestors to come to America (in 1851 to San Francisco via the steamer ship “New Orleans”) – and that he was a furniture dealer and had several stores on Broadway in Oakland, California and that he and his wife had 9 children, and only 5 girls lived to adulthood. And that he was a very early member of two B’nai B’rith organizations – one in Marysville and the other in Oakland. Etc Etc. It would be nice to know the names and BMD information about his parents and grandparents – but even if I did – how much more than that would I be able to find out? From 18th century newspapers in Germany/Prussia? I doubt it. Unless they were famous there is a one in a billion chance that I would know more than date information and how certain would that information be?

I make sure that I don’t gum up my tree with a bunch of extraneous “stuff.” And I don’t seek additional names just to increase the numbers. I have attempted to discourage “research runaway” by establishing some pretty strict rules for myself regarding collateral lines and “sideways” research, not to mention what I call “downlines.” But I do use the FAN concept of research.

These are my rules and I am in no way suggesting that anyone adopt them. But what you should do is consider setting up your own rules to guide you. So in addition to all my direct line ancestors of course, I have what I call 3 levels – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for sibling research. How deep (both directions) or wide are explained below:

1st Level – Siblings of Parents (my Aunts and Uncles)

- Spouses of parent’s siblings (my aunts and uncles by marriage)
- Siblings and siblings spouses of aunts and uncles by marriage
- Parents of aunts and uncles by marriage
- Grandparents of aunts and uncles by marriage and their children and children’s spouses
- Only one generation of downline of siblings of spouses of aunts and uncles by marriage
- Complete downline of all aunts and uncles (first cousins and their children, grandchildren, etc.)

2nd Level – Siblings of Grandparents (my Great Aunts and Great Uncles)

- Spouses of grandparent’s siblings (my great aunts and uncles by marriage)
- Siblings and siblings spouses of great aunts and uncles by marriage
- Parents of great aunts and uncles by marriage
- No children or downlines from siblings of great aunts and uncles by marriage
- Downline of great aunts and uncles children limited to two generations

3rd level – Siblings of Great Grandparents (my Great Great Aunts and Great Great Uncles)

- Spouses of great grandparent’s siblings (my great great aunts and uncles by marriage)
- Parents of great great aunts and uncles by marriage
- No siblings of great great aunts and uncles by marriage
- Downline of great great aunts and uncles children limited to two generations

Now – there are certainly going to be exceptions, and those tend to be selected subjectively, depending on the situation. And this does not mean that some folks are not researched – the living might be found in order to provide clarity on some of the “selected” folks. But those living folks may not be added to my tree.

So there you have it – if you want to have a better chance at having a quality tree – one way is to limit the number of names that you include and the only way is to set and stick to your own rules.

By the way – I only have 820 names in my Family Tree – and unless someone starts having lots of babies – it won’t get to a thousand any time soon. And there are just a small number who were born in the 1700s – and that’s fine by me.



Useful Articles from Other Sources

Interviewing Your Relatives?

- [Interviewing Questions and Prompts for Family History Interviews](#)

It May Be Legal, But Is It Ethical?

- [About that reunion book...](#)

Looking for Death Records?

- [9 Kinds of Ancestor Death Records You Should Look For](#)

Ancestor in an Asylum?

- [Researching Ancestors in Asylums](#)

Are Photos Part of Your Genealogy Activities?

- [A Genealogist's Guide to Digital Photography](#)

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

- [Remember to Check Out Conference Keeper!](#)

New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

[Home](#) [Resources](#) ▾ [Blog](#) [More](#) ▾

The Resources Menu item includes all **18 Categories of Links** (e.g., Newspapers, Yearbooks, Directories, etc.), Plus the By Location Feature

The More Menu Item includes: Recent Articles, Quicksheets, Newsletters, Subscribe, About, Contact, and Tools

In the Footer, there is a Search bar, Access to Blog Posts and Article Archives, and a New Category feature. Every Blog Post will be assigned at least one category.

Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN JULY

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

COMPLETE BIRTHS UPDATE

WORK ON CORONER RECORDS UPDATE

WORK ON CANADIAN RECORDS UPDATES

SUN-TAN PILLS

BEFORE **AFTER**

GET A REAL TAN — NOT A FAKE ORANGE TAN!

Anyone would have a hard time believing that you could make a dramatic change like that in as little as **10 days** — but it's true! These tanning pills have been used by 1000's. Derived from **100% Natural Vitamin and Mineral Sources**. Contains no dyes or artificial colors! These tablets contain the natural ingredients your skin cells need to produce a tan. Get an even, **deeper, darker tan** simply by taking 2 to 5 tablets daily with as little as 20 minutes sun exposure per day. **60 Day Money Back Guarantee.** 50 tablets \$9.95, 100 tablets \$17.95, 200 tablets \$25.95. Send check, MO or your VISA/MC card # with expiration date to:

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Sometimes Being THE Family Historian is Dangerous!



Being THE family historian can sometimes be a lonely job, a frustrating hobby, often a very rewarding endeavor, but rarely, if ever, dangerous.

Well today I faced danger – not the life threatening kind of danger but the people disappointing or hurting kind.

Leave it to Facebook. Most of the time, for me at least, Facebook has been incredibly helpful in tracking down possible cousins. In fact several of my most rewarding finds of living relatives have been as a result of diligent searching on that site.

But a couple of days ago, I got a “Friend” request from someone I did not know and I had no clue why she requested a “friend” connection. And it wasn’t one that was obviously spam.

But I was reviewing my Facebook messages this morning – and lo and behold – there was a message from her. It was a short message, but in it she stated that one of my cousins was her father, and the father never married her mother, etc. etc. They apparently met at a nightclub and the rest was history.

Now the dilemma – If I was truly interested in logging in my database every person that had a known and substantial DNA relationship with myself and my family – I would respond to her, get the facts as she knows them – with dates and mother’s full name, etc.

But I am not going to do that. Why – because apparently she had tried to connect with her “father” and was denied the connection. Now my cousin is a fantastic fellow and not one to shirk his “duties” but apparently he does not wish to explore this connection and that is his right. I emailed my cousin, let him know of the attempted connection and left it at that.

So maybe – having every little detail isn’t so important.

What do you think? What would you do?

If You Like Google Books – You Will LOVE HathiTrust!

This may be old hat to many, but it was a fairly new discovery for me a few years ago, so I thought I would repeat it, and that is the HathiTrust Digital Library. It combines the best of Google Books, the Internet Archive and others into one amazing research site.

“Founded in 2008, HathiTrust is a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries preserving 17+ million digitized items. HathiTrust offers reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. copyright law, computational access to the entire corpus for scholarly research, and other emerging services based on the combined collection. HathiTrust members steward the collection — the largest set of digitized books managed by academic and research libraries — under the aims of scholarly, not corporate, interests. The primary community that HathiTrust serves are the members (faculty, students, and users) of its partners libraries, but the materials in HathiTrust are available to all to the extent permitted by law and contracts, providing the published record as a public good to users around the world.”

As of 2021, there were over 17,000,000 digitized items available.

What are the benefits? There were two things that stood out for me immediately:

- Whereas Google Books often provides just a snippet of information or no preview at all of the material found in a search; with HathiTrust – on several occasions I was able to get full view and a pdf of a single page was easily downloaded (depending on copyright restrictions of course).
- The website interface is outstanding. Incredibly easy to use with multiple viewing, zooming options etc.

Furthermore – their FAQ and Help sections are very thorough, explaining the “how to use” hints as well as what is available for download and in great detail.

Am I a HathiTrust proponent. Unequivocally YES! And I am still discovering more.

Be A Bad Speller... PLEASE!

When thinking of a title for this little tip, I harkened back to my youth, when there was a famous British-born Jewish comedian, Henny Youngman. He was a master of “one-liners” and was very funny. He showed up on many TV variety shows. Probably his most famous line was “Take my wife.....please!” At any rate, what the heck does this have to do with genealogy and family history research? Lots and lots.

If you do online research for information and records about your ancestors and other family tree inhabitants, you are always faced with a search box – where you enter in many cases someone’s name.

And therein lies the problem. Because people either didn’t spell correctly or when indexing didn’t enter the information correctly. Or worse, newspaper indexes built from scanning and OCR.

So if you are searching, you are always battling:

- Census takers with lousy handwriting
- People who didn’t spell their name the same way every time they were asked. (I have some great grandparents who did this all the time). I have some ancestors who used so many variations that I still don’t know the “proper” spelling of their surname
- Indexers who wrote down a misspelled name in a log or journal
- Indexers for online indexes and other record databases who type the names improperly and the mistake is not caught
- Newspapers that often misspelled surnames
- For newspaper indexes, lousy source quality, or scanning and OCR errors

As an example, one of my family tree surnames is spelled “Braunhart”. I have found it in census records, indexes, and newspapers spelled “Brownhart”, “Braunhard”, “Braunhar”, “Braunhardt”, etc. To overcome the issues listed above, I INTENTIONALLY misspell these names myself, with a bunch of different variations. And THAT has been very successful for me – especially with newspaper research. Many ancestor records and newspaper articles have been found as a result of this.

So the moral of this story is: Be a bad speller... Please! You will be glad that you did.



Newspaper Research Tip – 8 Ways to Not Screw Up

Finding information and articles in newspapers about your ancestors is incredibly rewarding. And the amount of information about your ancestors in old newspapers is likely more than we can find.

But if you are not careful you can make assumptions about what is in ink on the newsprint and foul up your research because of poor conclusions.

And it is easy to do, correct? We fall into the trap of assuming that if it is published then it must be right.

So let's be careful out there.

Here are 8 ways to not screw up:

- **The Native Of Trap** - Just because the obituary states that your ancestor was a "native of" Boston, Massachusetts doesn't mean that they were born there. She may have lived there for decades, or maybe her parents moved there when she was 3 months old and everyone assumed she was born there. So just because the obit states the city that she was a "native of" does not mean she was born there.
- **The Marriage Trap** - There is a section in the Vitals area of the newspapers for Marriage Licenses. So your ancestor or research target is listed there with their intended spouse. Guess what – the operative word is "intended." Just because they got a license does not mean that a wedding took place.. You have more research to do.
- **The Divorce Trap** - Divorces Filed and Interlocutory Decrees are often listed in the Vital Statistics section of the newspaper. But those are NOT Divorces. Only Divorces Granted count as an actual divorce.
- **The Border Trap** - Don't assume that all articles are going to be in the newspapers of the state of residence for your ancestor. If your target lived near the state border, check out neighboring state newspapers. For example, if they lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, check out the Omaha, Nebraska papers. Or if they lived in Camden, New Jersey, check out the Philadelphia newspapers.
- **The Human Interest Story Bonus (and Possible Trap)** - Interesting articles were copied all over the country. My 3rd great uncle obtained possession of Geronimo's knife and the article was in papers in several states as a human interest story. Make sure that stories such as these state the actual location of the subject. Don't assume that it is the location of the newspaper that you are reading.
- **The Marriage Trap (Part 2)** - If you are searching for a woman, don't just search for her given name and married surname. Often women who were adults and married were written as Mrs. Robert Smith rather than Gladys Smith for example. So unless she was a widow, unmarried, was divorced, or a child, you likely won't find her by searching for her given name.
- **The Burial Trap** - Just because the obituary states that burial is to take place at Mountain View Cemetery doesn't mean that they were actually buried there. There may have been a last minute change of plans by the family. Or Mountain View was later closed and the gravestones and remains were moved to another cemetery.
- **The Always Spell Correctly Trap** - When typing in your search criteria into that little box in the online newspaper database remember something very important. You are searching against an index that was created from hardware and software processes that scanned the newspaper and attempted to convert the ink dots on the paper to a letter and thus words. There is no spell check that converts those ink dots into words or actual names.

The bottom line is that one should not assume that everything in the newspaper is correct. These examples are just a few where improper conclusions can lead to documenting inaccurate facts and furthermore, wasting time in future research.



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Help Your Ancestors Live Forever - Write Your Family History And Write Your Own History While You're At It

One of my goals in my personal genealogy is to make sure that my ancestors are remembered. Many had no descendants, so absolutely no one alive remembers them. That's sad to me, which is why I created a couple of family history websites. But recently I have been seeking even better ways to memorialize their lives. Their stories are important to be documented, which might explain why I am such a fan of newspaper research.

In any case, here are a few tools that I have discovered that provide a unique means to memorialize our ancestors.

And guess what? We need to produce our own autobiographies. We aren't getting any younger and memories do fade.



Whoowe

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions on your phone. You can contribute content in minute or several minute increments.

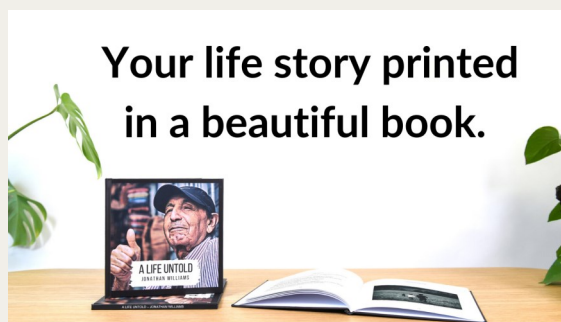
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at whoowe.com Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



StorySpot

Produce an online memorial with text, video, timelines, photos, favorite songs, and audio, and produce an optional book. Great for family reunions also

Available at www.storystop.com. Try it out for free. 25% discount available by using "ANCESTOR" as coupon code.



A Life Untold

Produce an online history easily with text, video, and audio from online questions. Proceed at your own pace, and add questions if you like. Very easy to use.

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They say the closest you can feel to someone without touching them, is hearing their voice. Produce an online autobiography or memorial with audio; add photos and coordinate with a book.

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"The Ancestor Hunt" is an affiliate for several of these companies and may receive a small commission should you purchase through this newsletter or the website and/or if you use the coupon codes mentioned above.

Last But Not Least

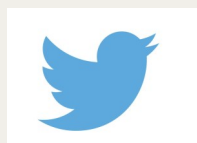
Free Stuff from the Mid West States

- 3,753 Free Online [Missouri](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,214 Free Online [Oklahoma](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 633 Free Online [South Dakota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,367 Free Online [Kansas](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,385 Free Online [Minnesota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 4,559 Free Online [Iowa](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 4,008 Free Online [Illinois](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 3,355 Free Online [Indiana](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 649 Free Online [North Dakota](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 1,626 Free Online [Nebraska](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 3,041 Free Online [Michigan](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 2,112 Free Online [Wisconsin](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories
- 5,593 Free Online [Ohio](#) Collections Available Now in 16 Genealogy Record Categories

The Ancestor Hunt Research Link Categories:

- Newspapers
- Obituaries
- BMD Records
- Directories
- Photos
- Yearbooks
- Divorce Records
- Naturalizations
- Cemetery and Burial Records
- Mortuary Records
- Immigration
- Church Records
- School Records
- Voter Lists
- Coroner Records
- Probate and Wills
- Alumni Records

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