

# Bi-Monthly Newsletter August 15, 2021



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- What is Crowdsourced User Text Correction (UTC)?
- Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog
- Useful Articles from Other Sources
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### Hit a Brick Wall? Need Help?



**Risk-free genealogy research  
from the most talented  
professionals on Earth**

Stop overpaying researchers you don't know or who don't have the specific skills you need. Our process and network give you the best price with high-quality results.

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)

### 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](mailto:kenmarksology@gmail.com) with any problems that you encounter so that I may fix them readily.

Were Your Ancestors  
Canadian?



Check out over 4,000 Digitized Canadian Newspapers  
[HERE](#)

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



## Articles Published Since Last Issue

- [FamilySearch New and Updated Collections – August 1-15, 2021](#)
- [Ancestry New and Updated Collections – July 1-31, 2021](#)
- [Free Online Alabama Military Records](#)
- [Free Online New Mexico Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Michigan Military Records](#)
- [Free Online New Jersey Military Records](#)
- [Free Online South Carolina Military Records](#)
- [28 Things You Can Find in Military Records to Help Find Your Ancestors](#)
- [Free Online Nebraska Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Minnesota Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Mississippi Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Maine Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Delaware Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Florida Military Records](#)
- [Free Online West Virginia Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Oklahoma Military Records](#)
- [Free Online North Carolina Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Tennessee Military Records](#)
- [Free Virginia High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free West Virginia High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Pennsylvania Online School Records](#)
- [Free New York Online School Records](#)
- [Free Arizona Online School Records](#)
- [Free Illinois Online School Records](#)
- [Free Kentucky Online School Records](#)
- [Free Online South Dakota Military Records](#)
- [Free Online Indiana Military Records](#)
- [Free New Jersey High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Maine High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Mississippi High School and College Yearbooks Online](#)
- [Free Washington Online School Records](#)
- [Free Maryland Online School Records](#)
- [Free Nebraska Online School Records](#)
- [Free North Carolina Online School Records](#)
- [Free Tennessee Online School Records](#)

## New From The Newspaper Corner

- [90 Million Historic U.S. Newspaper Pages Now Available from Advantage Archives](#)
- [GenealogyBank Adds/Updates 88 Titles – August, 2021](#)
- [Chronicling America Updates – July 2021](#)
- [British Newspaper Archive Adds/Updates 157 Titles – July, 2021](#)
- [NewspaperARCHIVE Update – July, 2021](#)
- [Find My Past Adds/Updates 129 Historical Newspaper Titles – July, 2021](#)

Have you ever tried searching for a street address when searching old newspapers online? Try it, you might be pleasantly surprised.

When searching for obituaries in old newspapers, add "beloved" or "dear" or "loving" to your search criteria. These are commonly used words in obituaries. This will save you time in finding the Obituary section of the newspaper.

Search old newspapers using abbreviations for names and titles. For example, "Wm" for William, or "Jno" for John, or "Jos" for Joseph, "Eliz" for Elizabeth, and "Robt" for Robert, just to name a few. Also, "Sgt" for Sergeant, and "Ave" for Avenue.

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## What is Crowdsourced User Text Correction (UTC)?

In a previous newsletter, I introduced you to Veridian, and included an interview that I conducted with Stefan Boddie, the CEO of the company behind Veridian Software. Just to repeat: **Veridian** is the name of the software and service package created by **DL Consulting**, a firm headquartered in Hamilton, New Zealand.

The Veridian software package has two unique features that are not commonly provided by digital newspaper “vendors”. The first, Article Segmentation, was discussed in last month’s newsletter. In this newsletter, we are discussing their unique feature that allows for registered users to correct the incorrect text that was created in the OCR process. But rather than me trying to explain it, Veridian has given me permission to reprint their discussion of this interesting feature.

The Veridian User Text Correction (UTC) module was developed to improve the “searchability” of our digital archives. The feature allows readers to correct errors in the text of digitized documents within an online collection.

UTC improves the accuracy of the text, which enables better search results and a richer experience for all users. Anyone can participate in UTC for a digital collection, as long as they have created an account and logged in.

### Why is UTC needed?

When a newspaper or other text document is prepared for display online, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software is used to generate searchable text.

On some occasions, the text can be difficult for the software to accurately register - for example, a torn or water damaged document may have some illegible or missing sections. Likewise, small fonts, imperfect and out of focus scans, fading, and many other factors can result in OCR text that is not 100% accurate. UTC allows users to correct these OCR errors as they come across them in the text, as shown in the example below:

### An example of OCR errors to be corrected.

Correct text: Hawkes Bay Weekly Times, Number 41, 7 October 1867

How to correct text

Save Save & exit Next Exit

WITH curls in the sunny air tossing,  
With light in the merry blue eyes,  
With laughter so, ctaarly outringing,  
A laugh of delight and surprise ;  
All frieaaay assistance disdaining,

Select Poetry.  
“GOING ALONE.”  
WITH curls in the sunny air tossing,  
With light in the merry blue eyes,  
With laughter so clearly outringing,  
A laugh of delight and surprise ;  
All friendly assistance disdaining,  
And trusting no strength but its own,  
The past fears and trials forgotten,

### What are the benefits of UTC?

As OCR text corrections are saved to the database, it gradually improves the quality of the collection and increases search result accuracy. The UTC feature also helps libraries and other organisations to build engaged online communities around their collections.

Since introducing this feature, Veridian digital collections have enjoyed more repeat visitors, a longer average duration of visits and increased total visits.

At first glance the benefits of crowd-sourced UTC might seem obvious - the “searchability” of the collection is gradually improved as errors are corrected. In reality though the corrections are just a fortunate by-product. The real benefit for the library is the creation of an engaged online community around their collection.

“Engaging with users and building virtual communities is just as important to the users as providing the data itself. They want to be part of a community.” - Rose Holley, National Library of Australia

A good example of a newspaper digitization project for which UTC has been very successful is the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC). At the time of writing the CDNC has built a community of more than 14,000 registered users, and collectively that community has corrected more than 10 million errors! Opportunities to communicate and engage with online patrons. Are you interested in learning more about who uses your collection, what they use it for, what their priorities are for future digitization, or what they do/don’t like about the collection? Go ahead and ask your registered users!

## What is Crowdsourced User Text Correction (UTC)?

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Aside from the improvements to the OCR text the benefits to the collection owner include the following:

- A more engaged user base — more repeat visitors, longer average duration of visits, increased total visits, etc.
- Opportunities to communicate and engage with online patrons. Are you interested in learning more about who uses your collection, what they use it for, what their priorities are for future digitization, or what they do/don't like about the collection? Go ahead and ask your registered users!

### What about text vandalism?

We're often asked what prevents users from maliciously vandalizing or corrupting the text in these collections. We've found occurrences of vandalism to be extremely rare, but have put measures in place to mitigate the risk where possible. For example, requiring users to register before making any corrections.

Veridian doesn't modify the original source data produced with the OCR process, so it's always possible to roll back to the original text if it's necessary to do so.

Since we're often asked about user text vandalism we thought we'd attempt to write some thoughts on the subject, so here they are:

Two of the largest and oldest newspaper digitization projects to include crowdsourced user text correction, Trove from the National Library of Australia and the California Newspaper Collection (CDNC) have both carried out studies to attempt to detect vandalism. Both found occurrences of vandalism to be extremely rare, and in the case of the CDNC they couldn't find any occurrences at all! This doesn't prove much of course, as subtle acts of vandalism can be hard to detect in a huge collection of newspapers, and some cases have been detected in Trove (though it's a miniscule proportion of the many millions of OCR errors corrected by that project). What it suggests though is that for most newspaper digitization projects there is only a low risk that users will use crowdsourcing tools to vandalize text.

Users can of course "correct the corrections" if they choose to do so. So vandalism by one user can be corrected by another.

Veridian doesn't modify the original source data produced with the OCR process, so it's always possible to roll back to the original text if it's necessary to do so.

CDNC and all the other Veridian-based collections with a crowdsourced UTC feature force users to register with a legitimate email address before making corrections. Users can of course use a throw-away gmail or yahoo address, but the enforced registration process probably does reduce occurrences of vandalism. Having said that, Trove allows anonymous corrections (and Veridian can be configured that way too), but vandalism is still extremely rare.

If necessary it's possible to disable UTC for specific newspaper titles, or for specific time periods, while still using it for the remainder of a large collection. This is an option for those collections containing specific content that may be more likely to attract vandalism.

If it was detected that one or more users had been busy vandalizing the text in a collection we could delete the corrections made by just those users, without deleting corrections by other users.

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From my point of view, becoming an active "User Text Corrector" is kind of a "Pay it Forward" activity. As a user of these databases from Veridian, there is no cost to you, the user. Thus spending a little bit of your time to "Pay Back (or Forward)" is just a nice thing to do to help other researchers in the future.

For detailed information about the User Text Correction feature from Veridian, including help and video tutorials, as well as many other topics, go to their [Knowledge Base](#)



# Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog

Full disclosure: I love the FamilySearch Catalog! For those collections that are available online, and the books that have been digitized, there are hundreds of thousands to choose from. For the online collections and books, I can use my PC at home to scroll through digitized page after digitized page, just as if I had my own microfilm reader, only without the hassle. But, there are a couple of hidden secrets that you need to know if you wish to maximize your results. And they are not easy to discover, which is why I am relating them to you now.

## Secret 1 - Use Keyword Searches

The first secret relates to searching through the catalog for records. Let's first look at the catalog's search box.

Search by:  
Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Place

Search for:  
Call Number | Film/Fiche Number

Availability  
☒ Any  
☐ Online  
☐ Family History Center

Search Reset

What I want to find are Funeral Home records from Los Angeles County, California that are available only online. I am not interested in knowing where the microfilm is located or those that are only available at a Family History Center (FHC).

The logical place to start is to enter the place for which the collections have been digitized by clicking on the "Place" menu item/tab.

The first screen is where I enter the Place, and the Online catalog will show me which collections are available. For entering the place, I click in that box, enter Los Angeles, and then select from the drop downs that are presented, "United States, California, Los Angeles", which signifies Los Angeles County.

Search by:  
Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Place

Search for:  
Call Number | Film/Fiche Number

Availability  
☐ Any  
☒ Online  
☐ Family History Center

Search Reset

Here is the screen of results after entering the Place:

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog  
[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Notes  
Created 1850, original county  
Part of [United States, California](#)

[Places within United States, California, Los Angeles ▶](#)

- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs ( 3 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Biography ( 19 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Business records and commerce ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Cemeteries ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Census - 1850 ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Church directories ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Church records ( 4 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Court records ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Description and travel ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Directories ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Emigration and Immigration ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Funeral homes ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Genealogy ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, California, Los Angeles - Genealogy - Inventories, registers, catalogs ( 1 )



## Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog

As you can see, it presents me with (1) Funeral Home collection. Only 1. This is what is presented to me when I click on that line - a collection for Pierce Brothers Mortuary.

▼ **United States, California, Los Angeles - Funeral homes ( 1 )**

**Funeral records, 1958-1990**

Author: Pierce Brothers Mortuary (Los Angeles, California)

***Now for the Secret Trick that will optimize the number of collections returned to you***

This time I am going to go back to the main search screen and click on Keywords, ignoring the Place for now.

First, I make sure that the Online button is clicked, and I will enter "los angeles funeral home" in the keyword box and hit "Search". I will show you that screen before I hit Search and then the results screen after I hit Search.

Search by:  
Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Keywords

Search for:  
Call Number | Film/Fiche Number

Availability  
☐ Any  
☒ Online  
☐ Family History Center

Search by:  
Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Keywords

Search for:  
Call Number | Film/Fiche Number

Availability  
☐ Any  
☒ Online  
☐ Family History Center

Holy mackerel! Now there are 30 online funeral home collections for Los Angeles County. The one we found in the very first search appears as the fifth hit in the second search using just keywords. So, entering the place in the Place box doesn't retrieve the optimal number of collections.

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

1-20 of 30 results

**Funeral records, 1898-1991**

Author: Pierce Bros. & Co. Funeral Directors (Los Angeles, California); Pierce Brothers Cunningham & O'Connor Mortuary (Los Angeles, California); Pierce Bros. Jones and Hamrock Mortuary (Los Angeles, California); Pierce Bros. Lincoln Heights Mortuary (Los Angeles, California)

**Funeral records, 1936-1984**

Author: Godeau & Martinoni Funeral Directors and Embalmers (Los Angeles, California); Pierce Brothers Godeau & Martinoni Funeral Directors (Los Angeles, California)

**L.D.S. funeral records, 1954-1984**

Author: Pierce Bros. & Co. Funeral Directors (Los Angeles, California)

**Funeral records, 1940-1945**

Author: Pierce Brothers Crane and Eberlee Mortuary (Los Angeles, California)

**Funeral records, 1958-1990**

Author: Pierce Brothers Mortuary (Los Angeles, California)

**Funeral records, 1933-1942**

Author: B. E. Dayton, Inc. Funeral Directors (Beverly Hills, California)

**Funeral records, 1972-1981**

Author: Pierce Brothers Cunningham and O'Connor Funeral Directors (West Hollywood, California)

***Secret 1 - Always use keyword searching when looking for online collections from the FS Catalog, and make sure that you click the Online button before clicking on Search. You will receive way more pertinent results.***



# Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog

## Secret 2 - Make sure you are always logged in.

When searching in FamilySearch, however you are doing it, you need to first have a free account and be logged in (or signed in). It is really easy to sign up.

But here is the kicker - FamilySearch logs me out all the time when I am using the site, **unbeknownst to me**. I am going to show you the results of a FamilySearch Catalog search, and one of the collections that is in the results list.

The first image example is when I am logged in, and the second image example when I have been logged out, and I will show you the differences.

The differences are stark when you are looking for online collections, which I will discuss.

Funeral records, 1940-1945

Authors:

Pierce Brothers Crane and Eberlee Mortuary (Los Angeles, California) (Main Author)

Format:

Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language:

English

Publication:

Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1996

Physical:

on 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

Add to Print List

**Notes**  
Microfilm of records located at Pierce Brothers Cunningham & O'Connor Mortuary, Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood, California.

Includes surname index.

Contains records of funerals, showing name of deceased, dates of birth and death, residence, names of parents and spouse, age, name of physician, cause of death, locations of funeral service and cemetery, etc.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

**Subjects**  
**Locality Subjects**  
[United States, California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles - Funeral homes](#)

Film/Digital Notes

| Note            | Location                               | Collection/Shelf            | Film              | DGS     | Format |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Funeral records | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada Film | 2048361<br>Item 4 | 7716983 |        |

Funeral records, 1940-1945

Authors:

Pierce Brothers Crane and Eberlee Mortuary (Los Angeles, California) (Main Author)

Format:

Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language:

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|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Funeral records | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada Film | 2048361<br>Item 4 | 7716983 |        |



## Two Hidden Secrets to Find a Ton More Results from the FamilySearch Catalog

Sorry, I had to minimize these to fit on this page. They look exactly the same, right?

Nope. See at the bottom under "Format"? The logged in image has a camera icon, and the logged out image has a camera with a key.

What's the difference, you ask?

Near the bottom of each collection page under Film/Digital Notes is the name of each sub-collection. If there is a camera icon at the right of the name (in the Format column) then the collections' images are browsable online. If there is a camera with a key icon, it is only available at a Family History Center or affiliated library. If there is a film reel icon, then it is only available in microfilm format, not digital. Finally, if there is a magnifying glass icon, the collection is searchable.

***Secret 2 - Always stay logged in. And regularly check if you are on the site for a long time, because FamilySearch will log you out regularly if you are on a long time, and you won't even know it unless you look at the top right of each page where it tells you if you are signed in or not.***

**The Moral of the Story is easy to remember: When searching the FS Catalog, always use keyword searches, and always stay signed in.**

That's all there is to optimizing your results that you can browse through - online - at home - in your PJs if you are so inclined!



## Useful Articles from Other Sources

Looking for a Genealogy Event?

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

Are You Writing for Others, or for Yourself?

- [Write and Cite](#)

Are You Analyzing Every Clue?

- [3 Overlooked Clues in Genealogical Documents](#)

Doing German Genealogy Research?

- [The 12 Best German Genealogy Websites](#)

Having Difficulties Finding Someone?

- [Free Genealogy Guide - 8 Strategies to Help You Track Down Those Elusive Ancestors](#)

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*If at first you don't succeed, search, search again. That is why we call it re-search.*

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## New Website Navigation

There are 4 Menu Items

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

The Resources Menu item includes all 20 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.

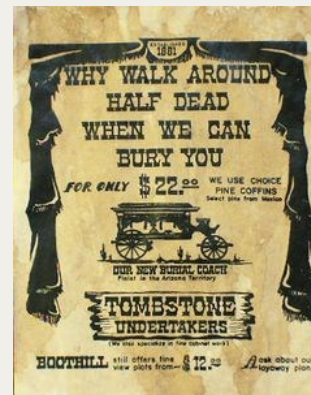
## Quirky Old Newspaper Ad

WHAT I AM WORKING ON IN AUGUST

FINISH NEW CATEGORY: CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

CONTINUE MILITARY RECORDS CATEGORY

UPDATE SCHOOL RECORDS AND YEARBOOKS



## 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.

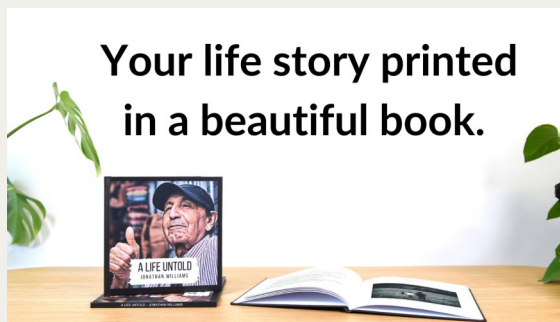
Whoowe is available from the AppStore and Google Play. Info at [whoowe.com](http://whoowe.com) Try it out for free. Discount coupon for readers coming soon.



### 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](http://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.

Available at [A Life Untold](http://A Life Untold). Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

### Record Your Autobiography With



### AUDIOBIOGRAPHY

### Audiobiography

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.

Available at [Audiobiography](http://Audiobiography). Try it out. 10% discount available by using "HUNT as coupon code.

"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.

## 10 Bits of Advice for New Genealogy Researchers

This is going to be a different kind list of items for new (and newish) genealogy researchers and family historians. I am not going to try to suggest how or what to research. There are tons of places for you to find information about researching.

But hopefully this list will help you in a different way, because there is so much out there for you to learn from: books, podcasts, blogs, webinars, conferences, etc. And it is really easy to get lost, or at least confused. There also is pressure to "do it right" either from others or self-imposed.

At some time in my genealogy learning experience I have dealt with all of these "do's and don'ts":

**Do not try to learn "above your head"** – I watched a webinar the other day from a well known genealogist about what should have been a reasonably easy subject to present. In a word – the webinar "sucked." The audience was a mix of mostly beginners and some intermediates. It was presented as if the audience had fairly significant prior knowledge. The presentation was quite confusing – at least to me. I am not a professional expert but have been around for over 15 years and can tell a good education piece from a lousy one. So don't try to learn something that you aren't ready for or that is confusing the heck out of you. Turn it off or stop reading and go back to basics.

**Do not be intimidated by those who seem to be smarter than you** – not many are smarter than you; they just have more experience and every single one of them started with no knowledge at all – just like you. And since many experts in any field are lousy presenters, it may appear that they are "smarter". A good presenter or writer will care more about the audience than they will about their own ego and will write and speak in a way that is understandable – to you – the viewer/reader. So gravitate to the educational materials that help you learn – and not confuse you. And find presenters and writers that you truly feel that you can learn from. Ignore the rest at first.

**Do analyze the heck out of every record or piece of evidence that you have** – sometimes we get so excited for example, to find a marriage certificate, that we neglect to look at the witnesses mentioned. They may provide an important clue. The same is true of obituaries – I always tell people to carefully analyze every single word in the obit. Believe me, there is stuff hidden in these newspaper articles that could help you fill out the branch of the tree that the deceased belongs to.

**Do not be intimidated by the "cite your source rules"** – writing down where you found stuff is very important, for no other reason than you will want to know where you found it when you are analyzing the information later. There are guidelines that have been written that are excellent, but may seem a bit intimidating. Try your best to follow them and give yourself time to apply them. You will get it eventually. Be patient with yourself.

**Do take a genealogy "break" once in a while** – sometimes we get stuck on one branch of our tree, or a so called "brick wall". Take a break and work on photos or stories or some other branch that might be a little easier. Or better yet – take a week or so where you don't touch your genealogy project. That might refresh your mind for when you get back to it.

**Do make realistic goals** – and don't get caught up in the "numbers game". Some people like to brag that they have 15,000 people in their family tree – or that they can trace back to the 12th century. I mean – Really? I frankly don't care about these sometimes ego driven statements. In my opinion, having a well-evidenced tree where you also know something about the inhabitants of the tree, as well as being pretty darn sure that the tree is "correct" should be the goal.

**Do get out of the house** – all records that you are seeking are not available online. That is a fact and will be a fact (in my opinion) likely almost forever. Remember it costs money to digitize all of this stuff. Subscription sites have a financial incentive to digitize records. Libraries and historical societies who own record collections on paper have to obtain funding and donations to get the money to microfilm and/or digitize their records. And as terrific as FamilySearch is to do the digitization that they do – they are not going to be able to digitize everything either. With this in mind, you need to get out and visit libraries, genealogy societies, courthouses, and archives to get access to these non-digitized records. Besides it's fun. A few years ago I had a great time finding out about my great great grandfather in a very small library in California. They had records from a lodge that he belonged to in the 1850's. Trust me – those handwritten records would be near the bottom of a list of items to be digitized.

**Don't just focus on dates** – Yes, birth, marriage and death date information is important to make sure you have the correct people in your family tree. But also focus on their life stories by searching newspapers for interesting articles and anecdotes about their lives. And spend some time with photograph identification with your known relatives and those new "cousins" that you find via your research. That is great fun.

**Don't let anyone or any challenge diminish your enthusiasm; and don't lose your curiosity**

**Do have fun** – for 99% of the people in the world who are searching for their ancestors and their stories – it is a hobby. Hobbies are supposed to be fun. Remember that.



© The Ancestor Hunt 2021 Visit The Ancestor Hunt at: <https://www.theancestorhunt.com>



Bi-Monthly Newsletter August 15 2021, Volume 2021 Issue 15

## Last But Not Least

### Newly Completed States with All Categories Created

- [7,885 Free Online New York Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,080 Free Online New Hampshire Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,429 Free Online Vermont Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [893 Free Online South Dakota Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [760 Free Online Rhode Island Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [2,009 Free Online Washington Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [803 Free Online Wyoming Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [521 Free Online Nevada Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
- [483 Free Online District of Columbia Collections Available Now in 19 Genealogy Record Categories](#)
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