



Identity Quest 2022, Saturday, November 12, 2022

CONNECT, COMMUNICATE, AND COLLABORATE
Non-traditional Strategies for Researching Family History

Cindy Cruz will demonstrate simple techniques to gather genealogical information from familiar websites that might not be obtained with conventional searches by name or location. Tips for locating resources and utilizing long-distance collaboration with other family historians will be emphasized.

HANDOUT

www.familysearch.org **Shared Family Tree Tips**

- Free, but requires creating an account and signing in
- Will be more productive if you enter yourself and a few ancestors into the Shared Tree (living people will not be visible to others – don't add a death date if you want a person to be private)
- "Sources"
- "Memories" You can post, too!
- "Life Sketch"
- "Collaborate"
- "Created By" Contact for more information
- "Follow" to receive periodic notices of changes on the profile of ancestors
- "View My Relationship" (requires that you are entered into the Shared Tree)
- "Search Records" provides links to other research websites

www.familysearch.org **Books**

- Oodles of free online books
- County Histories
- Church Histories and Records
- Published Family Genealogies
- Published Archives (ex. Pennsylvania)
- Genealogy Quarterlies and Magazines
- and many more!

www.familysearch.org **Genealogies**

- Not my favorite because there are lots of incorrect trees here, just as there are on Ancestry.com. It's just another place to check for clues.

www.familysearch.org **Images**

- Search by location, then browse results

Blogs – Examples

- Legal Genealogist - Judy Russell <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/>
- Genealogy Tip of the Day – John Michael Neill genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com
- Roots & Branches - James Beidler, German author and genealogy expert <https://www.roots-branches.com>
- Lynda Beck Fenwick – Author of a book about a Kansas bachelor homesteader, Isaac Werner Beckley, my first cousin, four times removed. <https://lynfenwick.blogspot.com>
- Angela Y. Walton-Raji – Black and Native American genealogy blogs <https://www.blogger.com/profile/12987860835348165902>
- List of 100 Blogs and Websites https://blog.feedspot.com/genealogy_blogs/
- “Google” surnames, places, topics to find blogs about your ancestors – May lead to further resources, books, etc.

www.facebook.com

- County Facebook Pages – search for county name, plus genealogy, history, township, etc.
- Church or Cemetery Facebook Pages – Tag your location when you post photos in cemeteries, churches, etc.
- Join Genealogy or Historical Society Facebook Pages
- “Search” function – look for surnames, comment on posts
- “Photos” – often have photos of ancestors, locations towns, etc.
- Check for “Files” and “Media” that might be of interest

www.findagrave.com

- Free; Creating an account allows more user options
- Look beyond the memorial profile
- “View Sources” for creators and contributors
- “Photos” may have additional information, can “view original photo” and download, contact “Photo added by” for permission to use photos, request a photo
- Check the “Leave a Flower” section– descendants often identify themselves and their relationship to the deceased, leave a flower stating your relationship as “cousin bait”
- Message the creator of a memorial if they have posted new and/or unsourced
- Contribute an edit, a bio, obituary, etc.
- Check periodically for new contributions

Church and Cemetery Websites

- History of a church may mention your ancestors as founders or ministers
- Historic photos
- Links to church records
- Burial lists or cemetery map
- Contact the church or cemetery office

Local Genealogical & Historical Societies or Libraries

- Publications, Journals, etc. for sale, some even sell used books, ex. americanancestors.org /New England Historic Genealogical Society
- Cemetery lists, tax lists, bios, vital records, maps, etc. – Sometimes published online
- Links to other resources
- Contact for information
- St. Louis County Library offers several free databases and services; **History Geo** is one to try if you had original landowners! <https://www.slcl.org/genealogy> The SLCL staff will also do lookups from books and periodicals if you submit a request from the website following their guidelines.

Library Catalogs

- Know before you go!
- List more than books – Maps, deeds, manuscripts, family tree and group sheets, newspapers, journals
- Volunteers or librarians will often answer questions, do quick look-ups, or will copy (sometimes requires a fee) specific requests.
- Some libraries do not have “open browsing.” They require that you give the call number of the materials that you want to the librarian. Some prefer that you email the list to them in advance. That saves lots of research time for you, too!
- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

www.ancestry.com

- “Family Trees” – look for well-sourced trees, photos, stories, etc.
- Contact DNA matches and folks who may have posted interesting and/or unsourced materials
- “Member Search” – People often use their real name or email address as their profile name; This applies to facebook.com, as well.

U.S. GenWeb County Pages

- Content varies, but some sites are GOLDMINES!
- <https://usgenweb.org>

TAKE A CHANCE ON A LONG SHOT!

- Send an email message
- Look up a phone number and call!

Contact Cindy Cruz at clcruz32153@aol.com