



May 2020

Willow Valley Genealogy Club Board

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Tentative 2020-2021 Programs

My COVID-19 Genealogy project. (sharing)

Genealogy program comparison

Archiving

Organizing

Finding Female ancestors

Diseases of our ancestors

Occupations of our ancestors

NARA

Census

Genealogy EXPO 2020: Postponed until 2021.

ZOOM

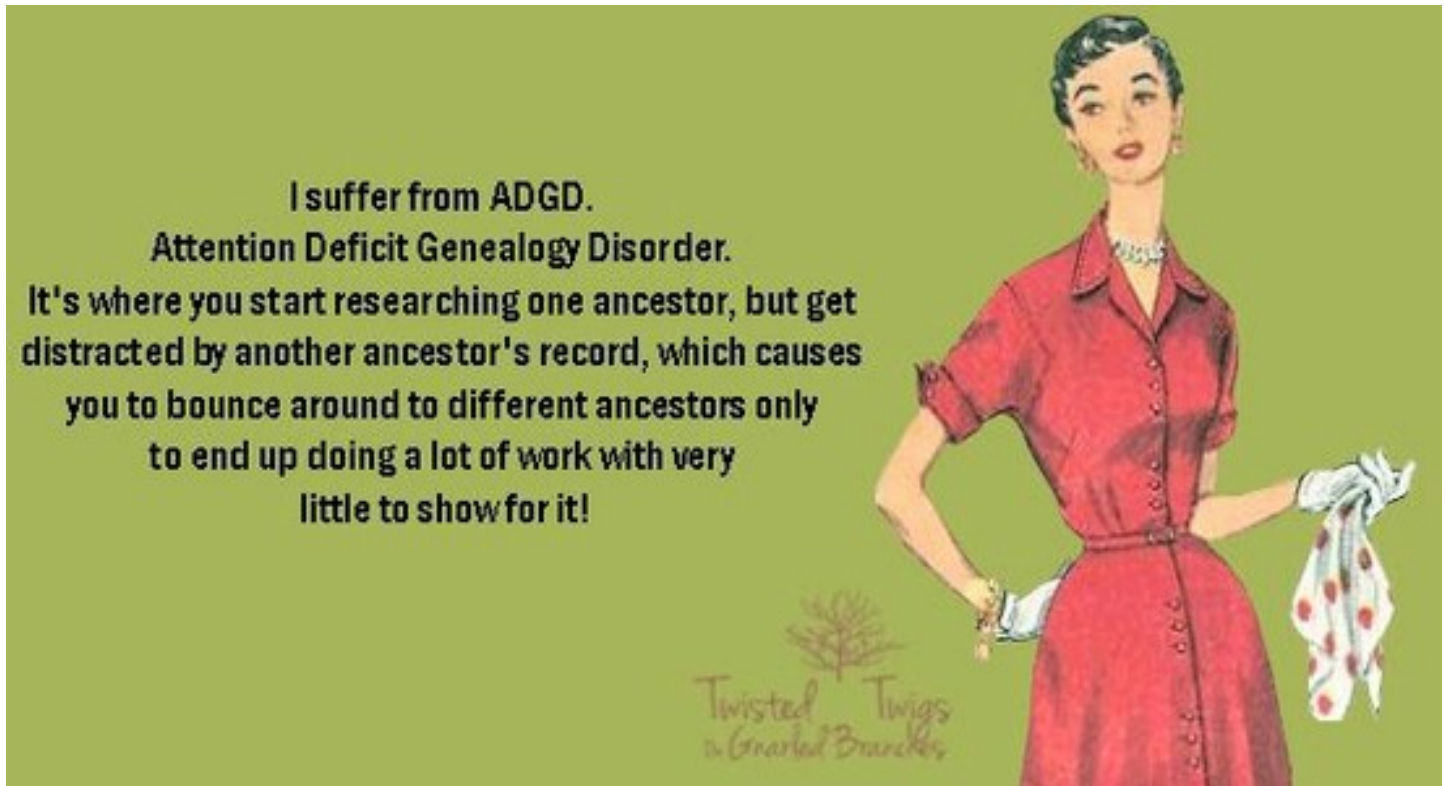
Like other Willow Valley clubs, we're tentatively planning to offer our September through December programs on Zoom. More details later. We hope you'll join us.

GENEALOGY IN THE COVID-19 ERA

I'm again offering some genealogy tasks to work on during this nice free time we have. The past two issues, suggested working with photos, compiling some family chronologies, organizing your papers, photos, files and such,

This issue will suggest some **Search Terms**, using **Restore** and looking for **Yearbooks**.

Whatever you do with your genealogy during this Stay at Home time, don't let this be you



Many of us want to 'add notches to our belt' with more and more ancestors-we know we won't get to Adam, but Noah would be nice ☺ . Here are some tips and tricks for getting you searching again.

SEARCH TERMS

Using a search engine (Google, Duck-Duck Go, etc.) or a genealogy website (familysearch, Ancestry, etc.), I usually search my ancestor by name: John Smith, which brings up John Smith but also myriads of listings with John and with Smith who may not be John Smith.

So let's try to narrow that down using some Boolean terms (accepted on most websites):

“” (quotes)

“John Smith” (*finds John Smith entries only, eliminating other John or Smith entries*)

AND (same as a space like above; default when searching-as above in my original search)

Smith AND John (*may bring up all entries for Smith and John; only a few may be John Smith*)

OR

Smith OR Smithe OR Smythe (*finds entries with these variations of Smith*)

NOT (or just a hyphen-)

Smith NOT Smythe

Smith -Smythe (*eliminates Smythe entries.can be used to eliminate a place, occupation or other term which may not apply to your ancestor*)

() (parenthesis)

(Milford NOT “New Milford”) AND (Smith OR Smythe)-(lets you link a series of choices together)

* (asterisk)

“John * Smith” (to find John P Smith, John Pomeroy Smith, John L Smith, etc.)

Here’s a nice search term cheat sheet: <https://ongrannystrail.com/2015/06/07/my-cheatsheet-for-genealogy-boolean-searches/>

So, now it’s your turn try Ancestry, Familysearch.com, Google, or any site you use to search for you ancestors, then play with these suggestions.

And remember: websites update/add information almost daily, so don’t forget to re-search those sites you thought you milked. You just might find that elusive ancestor, document or event you’ve been looking for.

RESTORE

If you’d rather try something else: download [RESTORE](#) (\$50) and pop in a photo- see if you like the enhancement. It’s quick and easy, usually does a nice job. Let me know your experience with it,

YEARBOOKS

Another route you can experiment with:

Yearbooks sometimes reveal what people did in school: clubs, sports, etc. and sometimes have club or activity and sports photos as well. Two places to look are [Classmates](#) and [My Heritage](#) which colorizes photos in yearbooks it’s digitized Yours, or an family member’s may be there. I’ve found my parents college yearbooks and siblings, in-laws, friends in these as well. It’ll take you away from the mindless trolling for COVID news, cartoons and stuff that we might be caught up in.