



*June & July 2020*

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

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## **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.

### **Tentative 2020-2021 Programs**

My COVID-19 Genealogy project. (sharing time)

Archiving

Organizing

Finding Female ancestors

Diseases of our ancestors

Occupations of our ancestors

NARA

Census

City Directories

**Lancasterhistory.org**: We've received an offer from Nathan Pease, Director of Library Services at

Lancasterhistory.org to have a Q&A on their Facebook page:

**<https://www.facebook.com/lancasterhistory>**

Their tentative idea is to allow us to go to the site with genealogy questions we may have (how do I find? Who was the father of? Where did they live? etc.) and they would research and then do a live chat with questioner on their findings,

So, do you have some questions? Either for Lancaster, PA or any place else/

## **GENEALOGY IN THE COVID-19 ERA**

Our first meeting will be a share-time for you to tell what you've done with all the free hours you've had through this pandemic. If my previous suggestions didn't get you started, try these two: Newspapers and yearbooks.

## YEARBOOKS

Last month, I briefly mentioned searching yearbooks. And since then, I've had fun with a number of yearbook sites, 'finding' some old friends, old flames and activities I participated in: sports, plays, band, orchestra, etc. When you look, you might also find your children, siblings, parents, uncles and aunts, or-if you're young enough, your grandparents, and some of your former teachers.

Last issue, I suggested trying [MyHeritage](#) (\$129 1<sup>st</sup> year \$189 subsequent years, with yearbooks from 1890-1979) & [Classmates](#), (\$9/3 months; \$24/12 months, \$36/2 yrs-this reflects a special 50% discount) the former because they were running a free special, colorizing photos. you selected from their yearbooks.

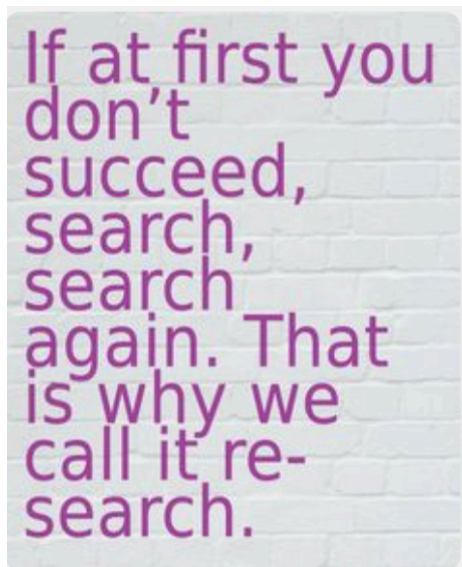
Here are some other cost sites:

[E-Yearbook](#) (\$20/year) One of its advantage is that it also includes college yearbooks, [Ancestry](#) (\$25/mo or \$99/year-with yearbooks from 1900-1999)

(all 4 sites have a free trial period, which means you need to sign up with a credit card, and, if you remember to cancel before the trial ends, or you get billed!)

Here are some free yearbook sites::

<https://nyheritage.org/explore/yearbooks> list of NY state collections-you could contact them



<http://www.old-yearbooks.com> -sends you to sites with yearbooks

<https://www.digitalnc.org/collections/yearbooks/> North Carolina yearbooks

<https://hclib.org/programs/genealogy-local-history/hennepin-county-yearbooks> many Hennepin County school yearbooks 1890-1977

<https://archives.albany.edu/description/catalog/ua807> This collection is made up of the yearbooks for the New York State Normal College, the New York State College for Teachers, and the State University of New York at Albany (but you have to go there or maybe request copies of a specific year and person)

Final comment: try different sites, as each has many yearbooks another does not have. So give these a try.

Now: to avoid this:



### Let's look at: NEWSPAPERS

They're are a treasure trove which Kristin Wenger discussed with us in November; they can help support or debunk "facts" in our genealogy, One of my favorite newspaper sections is the Personals (who visited who, who's home from or going to college, etc.). You also can find obituaries, photos, any number of pieces to help fill out your ancestor as well as possibly help you through a brick wall.

This Library of Congress [site](#) can help you find if there is or was, a newspaper in an ancestor's town; it's a "complete" list of newspaper published and being published. It's only by title, which means if the title doesn't begin with the name of their community, you might not find it. If you find one which isn't digitally indexed, you might ask a local historical or genealogy society, or library if they have copies or know where copies are. If available somewhere ask what it would cost for them to search for you, or plan trip and you can search,

This [site](#) gives a nice index to free searchable newspaper sites. It also includes a short analysis so you know what you're getting into-as not all sites are easy to navigate-they don't have the expertise a Google search engine.

Here are some free sites I've used successfully:

[Chronicling America](#), from the Library of Congress again, which covers numerous US papers, most being from major cities (it doesn't include all the papers in its index above-not by a long sight). This is a very good starting point, but don't stop here-try these other sites, too.

[Old Fulton Postcards](#) is a great site-don't let the name put you off-it indexes a raft of New York newspapers, as well as a few out of state ones, It can be cumbersome, but be patient and

thorough with it.

[Small Town Newspapers](#) indexes 250 small town newspapers from 1846 to the present,

And one I've bookmarked for future searching:

[Ancestor Hunt](#) has links to 644 collections from 42 states (plus one Canadian province) and the total number of pages exceeds 70 million!

Some pay sites (each with free trial-just remember to cancel in time not to be billed):

[Newspapers](#) has 16,300+ newspapers from the 1700s to 2000s, (2 choices-cheaper plan is \$7.95/mo or \$44.95 for 6 months) Easy to search, copy and download pages.

[Genealogy Bank](#) indexes 13,000 small and large town newspapers of which 95% are not in other sites (\$99.90 for 12 months). Also easy to search, copy, download pages.

And a Genealogy reminder: these (and other) sites are constantly updating, adding newspaper titles and issues, so come back and search them again every few months.

Happy searching!