

Castro Valley Library Genealogy Class Notes
3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546
1st/3rd Wednesdays 10:30-12:30
Wayne Ainsworth
<http://cacvgg.wdgeo.com>

December 6, 2023

1. Announcements

- Tips & Talks - Oakland FamilySearch Center
 - i) 11:00 am – Tuesday, December 12; FamilySearch Skills #7 – Merging People Records
- Next Meeting: 20 December 2023
- Homework Award

2. Borrowing Online Books at Internet Archive

Internet Archive (archive.org) might be a familiar website to you if you have used it to find digitized books, but did you know that you can also borrow library books? All you need to do is set up a free account. Books may be borrowed for varying time periods from 1-hour to 2 weeks. It is convenient, even if it's only a loan period of an hour. To learn more, see their webpage on **Borrowing** (<https://help.archive.org/help/borrowing-from-the-lending-library/>)

Because we are a library, we pay special attention to books. Not everyone has access to a public or academic library with a good collection, so to provide universal access we need to provide digital versions of books. We began a program to digitize books in 2005 and today we scan 4,300 books per day in 18 locations around the world. Books published prior to 1927 are available for download, and hundreds of thousands of modern books can be borrowed through our [Open Library](#) site. One of the Internet Archive's missions is to serve people who have difficulty interacting with physical books, so most of our digitized books are available to people with print disabilities.

Download audio files to your computer and family history database(s).

3. Gateway Resources

When you conduct your research, remember to look at some great compiled resources created by fellow genealogists! These web pages will make your family history research so much easier.

- **Cyndi's List** (cyndislist.com; check for a topic of interest)

Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 25 years. Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use, and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

What exactly is Cyndi's List?

- o A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
- o A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- o A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.
- o A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.
- o Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

- **Linkpendium** (linkpendium.com)

Linkpendium is a 10,000,000+ resource directory to everything on the Web about families worldwide and genealogically relevant information about U.S. states and countries. The gateway covers both free and subscription sites, with a strong emphasis upon free resources provided by libraries, government agencies, genealogical and historical societies, and individuals.

- **FamilySearch Wiki Pages** (www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page; check for the county of interest) check for the county of interest)

The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free, online genealogical guide created and maintained by FamilySearch, a non-profit organization. It contains links to genealogy databases, websites, other resources, research strategies, and genealogical guidance to assist in the search for your ancestors. The articles included are locality pages for countries around the world and topic pages that include pertinent genealogy record types explaining how to use the record, what it contains, and how to find it.

- **Ancestor Hunt** (www.theancestorhunt.com; check for a resource type, followed by state and sometimes county)

The Ancestor Hunt website was created to basically “Help people find stuff.” In a nutshell, the site finds links to free online collections, so you don’t have to. And it creates quick reference guides to help researchers know where to look (and what to look for) to find various kinds of genealogical materials.

What started as 10,000 links to free online newspaper titles in 2014 has blossomed to over 240,000 in 24 different genealogy record collection categories.

- **Joe Beine’s pages** (www.deathindexes.com)

This website is a directory of links to websites with online death indexes, listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials. You can also find information here about searching the Social Security Death Index online.

4. What's in that Pile? Organization for the Disorganized Genealogist

- The Genealogy Guys discuss their 31-day approach to organization.
<https://genealogyguys.blogspot.com/search/label/Organization>

- James Tanner discusses his approach to organization (1 hour video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_Ea2tl94T8&feature=youtu.be
- 5. Twelve Rules of Genealogy (per James Tanner)
[https://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2019/07/annual-review-of-rules-of-genealogy-new.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/QuFvc+\(Genealogy's+Star\)](https://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2019/07/annual-review-of-rules-of-genealogy-new.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/QuFvc+(Genealogy's+Star))
- 6. Better Note Taking – Amy Johnson Crow (14 minute podcast; also written presentation)
<https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/taking-better-notes-in-your-genealogy-research/>
- 7. Seven TV Shows to Inspire Your Genealogy Research
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/7-genealogy-tv-shows/>
- 8. New Gmail Tools to Help with Genealogy Tasks and Correspondence
https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2020/05/new-gmail-tools.html