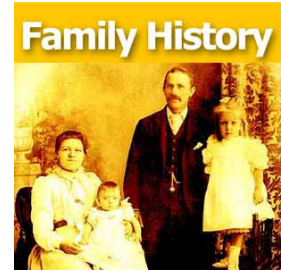


Family History: Genealogy Made Easy

with *Lisa Louise Cooke*

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Welcome to this step-by-step series for beginning genealogists—and more experienced ones who want to brush up or learn something new. I first ran this series in 2008. So many people have asked about it, I'm bringing it back in weekly segments.

Episode 7: Best Genealogy Websites, Part 1

In our first segment, my guest is Lisa Alzo (www.lisaalzo.com), popular genealogy lecturer and writer (now the author of nine books and online genealogy instructor at Family Tree University (www.FamilyTreeUniversity.com) and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies (www.genealogicalstudies.com). We talk about her reasons for researching her family history and what she's learned in her genealogical journeys (which include international travel in Eastern Europe).

In the second half of the show, we tackle an essential topic: the best subscription websites for genealogical data. This is a two-part topic: in this episode I talk about sites that require payment to access their core content. In Episode 8, we'll talk about the fantastic free websites that are out there.

Keep in mind that this episode was recorded a few years ago. As I mention in the show, the online records landscape is constantly changing. Here are a few updates:

- The biggest powerhouse paid subscription website is still Ancestry (www.Ancestry.com): it's just bigger and better than what I originally described. As of fall 2013, they host 11 billion historical records. Member-contributed items include over 50 million family trees and 160 million uploads of photographs, stories and scanned documents. They still have a free 14-day trial membership and multiple subscription options: check out current offers at <http://tinyurl.com/ancestrytryusfree>.
- WorldVitalRecords (www.worldvitalrecords.com) is still a great website, though it's grown more slowly. At our republishing date, it boasts over 158 million digitized images, (including US and UK censuses); 300 million names from vital records; 75 million names from military records, over 100 million pages of newspapers dating from 1739; 1.5 million historical maps; 8000 yearbooks and over 30 million tombstone photos. WorldVitalRecords is now part of the MyHeritage.com family of websites. Find a free 3-day trial membership at <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/offers/freetrial>.
- Findmypast now has two web storefronts: www.findmypast.com (recommended for folks in the U.S.) and www.FindMyPast.co.uk (which specializes in British and Irish roots and records). At last glance in fall 2013, findmypast hosts over 1.5 million family history records. It offers great search options and a budget-friendly pay-per-view model or a more traditional subscription.

- RootsIreland (<http://rootsireland.ie/>) is now home now to over 20 million Irish records.
- Genline.com (<http://www.genline.com/>) for Swedish research is still online, though it's part of Ancestry.com now. It's home to over 20 million church record images and more.
- Scotland's People (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>) is still your official home for online Scottish records, including an enormous collection of parish records with births and baptisms, banns and marriages and deaths and burials.
- Many other sites support specific topics in genealogy research. An example on my side of the pond is www.Fold3.com (formerly Footnote) for American military records. This site is home to over 400 million total records from the Revolutionary War era forward. Check with others who research families from the same location or ethnic background as your family to see what sites would be perfect for you.

Links

Ancestry www.ancestry.com

Findmypast www.findmypast.com or www.findmypast.co.uk

Fold3 www.fold3.com

WorldVitalRecords www.WorldVitalRecords.com

My website mentioned in the podcast, GenealogyGems.tv, is now better known as www.genealogygems.com. The Genealogy Gems newsletter mentioned in the episode is now my blog, which you can find on my website.