Genealogy Notes from Emily April 2015

Emily Schroeder
Maine State Library, Emily.Schroeder@maine.gov

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Greetings once again, and Happy Spring (I think!). I will be so glad to see all this last winter’s snow go away—we’ve had such a long siege! It’s time to start planning some ways we can enhance our genealogy skills and find those hidden ancestors! How about trying the Internet for some good training sessions?

The first suggestion I have to offer is no surprise: www.ancestry.com. Just log onto the site—you don’t have to be a subscriber.

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to the “support center” and click on that. On the following page you’ll see the “learning center” at the top of the page. One of the drop-down options is webinars! The user can see them by title or date. Topics include Ancestry.com features, ethnic research and FamilyTree Maker training.

FamilySearch gets in on this trend as well, though it takes a bit more digging. Go to the main page, www.familysearch.org, and click on the “search” option. From the dropdown select “wiki”. This leads you to “Family History Research Wiki”. The shortcut would be: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page. On the left side you’ll find “New to Genealogy?-The Research Process”. Click on that and you’ll come to a page with the offer to “Search Learning and How-To’s”. I went to “Instruction and Methodology”, and found some online presentations there...

Lisa Louise Cooke is another great source for online instruction. Her specialty is “The Genealogy Gems Podcast”. She gives the participant monthly episodes of “inspiration and innovation”, that last about 30 to 45 minutes. You can “subscribe” and receive episodes in your e-mail as they are produced, or select them through her website. Either way, they’re completely free, and can be played on your regular computer, iPod, iPhone or iPad. Here’s the address: www.GenealogyGems.com.

YouTube is also on the genealogy bandwagon. Enter “genealogy” in their search box, or plug this address in: https://www.youtube.com/channels?q=genealogy. Lessons are found by topic and the organization producing them. I noted contributions by Allen County Public Library and the National Genealogical Society, for example. So, get online, and have some fun while picking up research tips!

What’s Happening with HeritageQuest?

If it’s been a while since you used HeritageQuest, I’m here to warn you: it’s going to look and act a little differently than it has in the past. As of March 4th it is “powered by Ancestry”. The announcement stated that the entire Census would be included, with images and indexes from 1790 through 1940, in addition to Mortality, Non-Population, Indian Census Rolls “and more”. The collection of genealogies and local histories has expanded, as has the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land records. The Census maps are interactive, and there are new research aids. I freely admit that I have not examined this latest incarnation with any depth; so, I’d be very interested in your opinions—good or bad—of the “new” HeritageQuest. Feel free to contact me with your honest views! Thanks so much!