

CVGS RESEARCH GROUP NOTES – 9 March 2022

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A) CVGS News

- * CVGS DNA Group in Wednesday, 16 March at 12 noon PDT. Register on CVGS website (<https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/event-4717786>).
- * CVGS Field Trip is Wednesday, 23 March 11 a.m. PDT. Carpool from downtown Chula vista parking garage (2nd level) leaving at 10:30 a.m. PDT. San Diego FamilySearch Center is at 4195 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.
- * CVGS General Meeting is Wednesday, 30 March at 12 noon PDT. Register on CVGS website (<https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/>). Speaker is Pam Vestal on "What the Heck Does That Say? Overcoming the Challenge of Difficult Handwriting"
- * CVGS "Family History Gazette" for March 2022 published on Sunday by email, should be on the CVGS website in "News" link.

B) Genealogy News

1) **RootsTech Connect 2022 was March 3-5, 2022. Over 1,000 presentations on all family history topics. They will be FREE and available for at least one year on <https://familysearch/rootstech/> under "Sessions."**

* Search by Topic, speaker, language, location, etc. Use Year=2022 to see 2022 sessions, or Year=2021 to see 2021 sessions. They are all available in video for FREE on the RootsTech website. Some have handouts. Searching for a topic can be frustrating – the lists are long.

* "Relatives at RootsTech" feature available until 25 March. I have 94,109 of them. This uses FamilySearch Family Tree to find relationships with RootsTech registrants. You can see your top 300 relatives in the list. You can see those from different countries and/or states. You can see those from specific ancestors of yours.

2) **1950 United States Census Release is 1 April 2022. NARA will put the 165 terabytes of data on Amazon Web Services.**

* NARA information is at <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950>. There will be a demonstration of accessing the census by Michael Knight on 30 March – see More information is at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022> .

* NARA will have a preliminary name index available on 1 April. This index will use Amazon Web Services' artificial intelligence / optical character recognition (AI/OCR) Textract tool to extract the handwritten names from the digitized 1950 Census population schedules. It will probably be imperfect.

* After the census is released, Ancestry.com will use their sophisticated [artificial intelligence and handwriting recognition technology](#) to save time by creating an initial index from digital census images. While this index won't be perfect, it will expedite the review and publication process to let you search for your family's names in the 1950 census sooner after its release. Volunteers (organized by FamilySearch) will help review the computer-created index for accuracy. Instead

of creating an index from scratch, volunteers helping with the 1950 census indexing will be invited to review the automated index to ensure that every name is included and indexed correctly. A human review will refine the index and help ensure that everyone included in the census can be found. This index will be shared by Ancestry.com and FamilySearch, and probably with MyHeritage, Findmypast, American Ancestors and other commercial or educational websites. It may take one to three months to complete this indexing effort.

* See Crista Cowan's Keynote talk at RootsTech on the 1950 Census in

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/the-1950-u-s-census-and-you-main-stage?lang=eng>.

* We won't know how accurate any of the indexing is until after they are provided. We don't know how busy the NARA/Amazon site will be on 1 April – you may not be able to search for a day or two.

* The Steve Morse and Joel Weintraub tools to find Enumeration Districts (ED) for specific addresses can be used to help browse the census records. If you can identify the specific ED, then you should be able to narrow your search for specific people. The Steve Morse website has a “Unified Large City ED Finder” (<https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>) and a “1940-1950 ED Maps” (<https://stevemorse.org/census/arc1940-1950edmaps.html>) to help you identify the ED of a specific address, or if you only know the street – a limited number of ED numbers. Use Google Maps to help you find addresses and cross streets.

* Watch Joel Weintraub's videos at <https://www.youtube.com/c/JDWTalks>

* Watch DearMYRTLE's “Census Genie” videos at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DearmyrtlePage/videos>

* Find out where your target people – parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins, etc. resided using Family Papers or Address Books, City Directories (Ancestry, FamilySearch), Telephone Books (at libraries?). Write them down in a list – names, address, useful information.

* You can help Index the census and other FamilySearch collections – read [\[FamilySearch\] Online Volunteer Tool Changes the Future of Family Discoveries](#)

3) Ancestry Stories and Photomyne enhancements of photographs:

* Read [Ancestry.com Announces Partnership With Photomyne for Photo Enhancing](#)

* Read [First Look At Ancestry and Photomyne Photo Enhancements](#)

* Be sure to get your photographs on the person profiles in your Ancestry Member Tree.

* Use Photomyne tools to restore or colorize your photographs.

* Try to use only “portrait” photos.

* Read [#MyAncestryStory Debuts on the Ancestry Mobile app](#)

* The Ancestry Stories feature is on the Ancestry mobile app, and only on iOS now. You need to update the app. Then go to your tree on the app, select a person, open their Gallery of photographs and start your Story. Build your story chronologically – birth to death. Add photographs and add text descriptions. You can edit the different story pages. Finally, hit Publish and save your Story, and you can share a link to your family or friends.

4) MyHeritage LiveStory:

* Watch the YouTube video: [LiveStory: Watching Your Ancestors Tell Their Own Life Stories](#)

* Read [Introducing LiveStory: Make Your Family Photos Speak](#)

* My first LiveStory is at [First Look at the MyHeritage LiveStory Feature](#) and also at <https://myhr.tg/1quj96As>.

- * The LiveStory feature is web-based – you access it through your MyHeritage account. It will probably be on the MyHeritage mobile app at a later time.
- * A MyHeritage guest user can create a limited number of LiveStories.
- * You need to have your photographs in your [MyHeritage](#) account. Restore, enhance and colorize them if you want to use colored or enhanced photographs. Try to make your story chronological.
- * Easy process: Select a person, select a photo, then add the person's name, and then type into the window the words to describe the person, event or image; use complete sentences. When the first one is finished, select another photo until your story is complete. When it's complete, you can save the story, and they will send you an email when it is available to watch and download.
- * The words you wrote to describe the photos will be spoken by the person in the first photograph in an appropriate voice (not the voice of your person) with the Deep Nostalgia feature working as the person speaks. You can select from a range of male and female voices, and some accents.
- * You can edit the LiveStory at any time; if you edit the story, after saving, you need to save the edited story, and a new version will be sent to you.
- * You can download a link to your LiveStory on MyHeritage from your email, or you can download and save the LiveStory as an mp4 file from your email, and/or post it to Facebook and Twitter from the MyHeritage link.

C) Useful Blog Posts:

- * [Important Last-Minute 1950 US Census Info](#) by Marian B. Wood
- * [Ancestry Stories: Fun and Easy to Make](#) by Maureen Taylor
- * [Are You Using These Genealogical Sources?](#) by Brenda Leyndyke
- * [Why Everyone Should Write Their Family History](#) by Natalie Pithers
- * [Part 5: Pennsylvania Germans: Subsequent Land Transactions](#) by Alice Childs
- * [Revisiting Proof and Truth in Genealogy](#) by James Tanner
- * [The whys and what-ifs](#) by Judy G. Russell
- * [OUR CHALLENGE: Personal Histories and Compiled Genealogies](#) by Pat Richley-Erickson
- * [1950 US Census Part 2: Prepping for the Release](#) by Julie Tarr
- * [Part 4: Pennsylvania Germans: The Land Acquisition Process in Colonial Pennsylvania](#) by Alice Childs
- * [Is MyHeritage.com Worth the Money for Your Genealogy Research?](#) by Will Money maker
- * [Part 3: Pennsylvania Germans: Guiding Principles for Research](#) by Alice Childs
- * [1950 US Census Prep: Using ED Maps and Descriptions](#) by Marian B. Wood
- * [Why They're Only Clues](#) by Judy G. Russell
- * [Is Ancestry.com Worth the Money for Your Genealogy Research?](#) by Will Money maker
- * [PERSI: Tips for Getting Copies of Articles](#) by Cari Taplin
- * [Part 2: Pennsylvania Germans: Journey to a New Land](#) by Alice Childs
- * [Rabbit Holes With Randy - Finding Nathan Brigham Land Deeds on FamilySearch](#) by Randy Seaver