

## **GETTING A GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION - PART 1**

### ***Conferences, Seminars, Classes, Webinars, and YouTube***

**A Family Digging Podcast**

**Paul:** Hello Family Diggers! Welcome to our podcast. I am Paul Hendee, here with Carolyn Lancaster to talk with you about how to get an education for genealogy. You know we like free resources, so most of these opportunities will be free. But not everything that is worthwhile is free. Some things cost money. The most important thing to keep in mind is what the education you receive is giving you for the cost you pay. Let's start off by saying that if you want to become certified as a professional genealogist, that will cost you something; we are not going to review all those options here, as we expect that the folks who need the most help are amateur genealogists or newbies.

**Carolyn:** In looking over this past year and a half of being limited due to the pandemic, I am so grateful for the genealogy community, who really stepped up to the plate to help people keep on researching even when limited to being home. It was a major contributing factor in keeping my sanity while alone. Ancestry.com is a prime example. They provided access to their Library Edition to enable free access at home for millions of people, and all it takes is a library card. {After our recording Ancestry announced that the program would end on December 31, 2021. It was great while it lasted. To access Ancestry's Library Edition for free now, most public libraries in the USA provide it for their patrons.

**Paul:** We also saw hundreds of local genealogy societies and libraries really reach out to provide programs virtually that would normally be done in person only. The question now is, “Will we ever go back?” That’s too soon to say. But virtual programs can offer you a great deal that you cannot get otherwise. For instance, if you are trying to learn what resources are available for Chicago research (which is notoriously difficult), do you think you are likely to get the answers you need in Baltimore, Maryland or Cook County, Illinois? If you are located in Baltimore, how often do you think groups in that locale are going to offer programs on Cook County, Illinois? And we all can use more education about national topics, such as Military Records, Migration Patterns and the like; so many programs being offered apply to many people everywhere (at least in the USA). Physical and virtual gatherings each have their place, but when you don’t have the option of physical gathering, virtual ones are a great alternative.

**Carolyn:** The classic example of being flexible is looking at RootsTech, the largest genealogy conference in the country each year. Last year when they switched from a physical three-day conference to a three-day virtual conference, people everywhere had an opportunity to participate. Over 1.5 million people registered for RootsTech from literally all over the world. It has been entirely inspiring.

**And the great thing about it (to my mind) is that you didn't need to watch everything during those three days - that would be exhausting, to say the least. Instead, for all those who registered for the conference, they can watch most of it whenever they want over the course of 2021, and download almost all of the handouts, at their convenience and the convenience of their pocketbook, because it is all free.**

**Rootstech 2022 has been announced, and it will be held in Early March, entirely virtually again. If you register now, they will send occasional emails or text messages (your choice) on what they have planned and when the course selections are available to review. Just Google "RootsTech 2022" and go from there.**

**Paul:** So what are you going to do if you need to learn something specific about Scandinavian research and RootsTech is months off? Try FamilySearch's Family History Library Classes. Go to the transcription tab on our website and choose this session for the links: <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/learning> and see the upcoming webinars; it allows you to register, as well as get the handouts (which are generally available closer to the date of the event). For past classes, go to the link on our transcript [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes\\_in\\_the\\_Learning\\_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center) . There are a lot of classes available; you will be amazed.

Along that same line, Brigham Young University's Family History Library also has a ton of webinars and classes available. Go to the link in our transcript:

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/> to see what is available, not only there, but at other sites as well.

**Carolyn:** Then there is Ancestry Academy, with all free classes:

<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse>

While we are on the subject, we would like to share a site that may cost you some money, but I think it is really worth it. Legacy Family Tree Webinars (now owned by My Heritage) does webinars several times a week with nationally and internationally known speakers. You can watch a webinar as a live broadcast, or within the following few days for free. If you want to watch it after that, or if you want to access the syllabus, you need to become a member. They also do webinars exclusively for members. The cost is \$49.95 per year, but you can get that price discounted when they have sales or by a coupon you receive for attending a live webinar presentation. Generally these discounts are for first-time members only. There are a number of things to really like about "FTW"; one is the broadness of what they offer - there are many technology tools that are covered on a step-by-step basis. There are MyHeritage instructional videos. There are lots of webinars on where to find sources for your research, how to write, cite and It goes on and on. They have almost 1700 past webinars available to review.

**Paul:** The ultimate way to search out these new opportunities is with a site called Conference Keeper:

<https://conferencekeeper.org>

ConferenceKeeper has a calendar of a huge percentage of the genealogy events being offered in person or online. It includes in person and virtual conferences, genealogical society meetings and library webinars. If you don't want to have to go through all the in-person offerings, you just have to tap once on the Virtual Calendar, and you are there - able to see what all is going on all over the country. When you find a topic you want to enjoy, note whether it is free [or not, which will be shown by a dollar sign (\$)]. Also note if it is open to the public or not. To get more information on the event and to register, tap once and it will take you to another page. If you decide to register, do that with a very simple form in most cases. Once you receive confirmation that your request has been approved, email the confirmation to yourself. You will receive an email confirming the event and giving you the instructions needed to join the webinar at the appointed time. Be sure to add the upcoming event to your Google (or other) calendar so that you can be reminded that the event is coming shortly, and to make it easier to join the meeting. You can also sign up for a weekly newsletter that provides new additions to the calendar that week.

**Carolyn:** I keep these confirmations in an email file called “Calendar”, to keep the link to the event easy to find, but not before adding the event to my Google calendar, one of several options you can use as a reminder of the event. I also note what application is needed to participate, be it Zoom, GoToWebinar, directly with the sponsoring organization, etc. This way I can make sure I have that up and running well before the day of the webinar. When the webinar is over and I have downloaded whatever handout might be available, then it’s the time to delete the email from my Calendar folder.

Then there is YouTube, of course. There are some excellent Genealogy Channels on YouTube. The major genealogy companies all have channels - FamilySearch, Ancestry, My Heritage, FindMyPast; but there is way more. To access genealogy channels on YouTube.com, search with the term “genealogy how tos” to eliminate all the clutter of totally unrelated stuff that YouTube seems fond of including whenever you search any topic. This will bring you a list of sessions available to see from various places. If you go into one channel, there should be a place where you can see the other sessions for that same channel.

If you like something and want to be notified when a new broadcast is available, just subscribe. And if you like something, it is very helpful if you say so by pressing on the thumbs up underneath the screen. Go back to YouTube and do a new search for “family history how tos”. (You may come up with more channels looking both ways.) At the end of this transcript is a list of YouTube channels that we like, but we haven’t tried them all yet, to say the least.

**Paul:** Well, folks, that’s all there is time for today. We hope we have given you some food for thought, as well as places to explore to get a family history education for free. When we do Part 2, we will talk about websites, blogs and podcasts. Hope you will join us for that session. As usual, if you want a transcript of this podcast, please go to our website, ([familydigging.com](http://familydigging.com)) and look under the Transcriptions tab. You are free to download or email this to yourself for personal use only. For any other use, please request permission in advance by contacting us by email at [info@familydigging.com](mailto:info@familydigging.com). All transcripts are copyrighted by Family Digging.

Enjoy the rest of your week, and happy digging!

Paul Hendee and Carolyn Lancaster

## Just Some of the YouTube Channels We Like

**GenealogyTV (with Connie Knox)**

**MyHeritage**

**Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems**

**FindMyPast**

**Elevenses with Lisa (same Lisa)**

**Wikitree**

**Genealogy Software Showcase**

**Ancestry**

**AmericanAncestors**

**Family Search**

**Family History Fanatics Lisa Lisson**

**Allen County Public Library (IN)\***

**Ancestral Findings**

**\*Their Genealogy Center is one of the best in the country.**