**TRY THIS!**

**Unique Techniques for Remarkable Results**
**Through Contacts With Other Genealogists & Family Historians**
**Tuesday, January 18 at 9:30 am**

**Cindy Cruz will demonstrate simple techniques to try on familiar websites to achieve genealogical information that can't be obtained by conventional searches. Long distance collaboration with other family historians will be emphasized.**

**HANDOUT**

www.familysearch.org: **Shared Family Tree Tips**

- Free, but requires creating an account and signing in
- Will be more productive if you enter yourself and a few ancestors into the Shared Tree (living people will not be visible to others – don't add a death date if you want a person to be private)
- "Sources" ex. Josiah Boston LZL7-2MB (Linda's ancestor)
- "Memories" You can post, too!
- "Collaborate" The Woolard, Crisp, Green families of Indiana, Missouri, and Arkansas – Manuscript (film 176629, DGS 8703208) – my 3Xs ggfather Rufus Crisp's family records – and more by Stan Radford
- Contact "Created By" for more information
- "Follow" to receive periodic notices of changes on the profile of ancestors
- "View Relationship" (requires that you are entered into the Shared Tree)

www.familysearch.org **Books**

- Oodles of free online books
- County Histories
- Church Histories and Records
- Published Family Genealogies
- Published Archives (ex. Pennsylvania)
- Genealogy Quarterlies and Magazines
- and many more!

www.familysearch.org **Genealogies** – Not my favorite because there are lots of incorrect trees here, just as there are on Ancestry.com. It's just another place to check

**Blogs** – Examples

- Legal Genealogist – found my ggfather's patent after noting that ancestry.com had updated their US Patents database https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/
- Genealogy Tip of the Day - genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com
- Roots & Branches – I am related to James Beidler! German author and genealogy expert https://www.roots-branches.com

- Lynda Beck Fenwick – Wrote a book about a Kansas bachelor homesteader, Isaac Werner Beckley, my first cousin, four times removed. Her blog posts had some family history and the name of another cousin whom I contacted. I also read the book! https://lynfenwick.blogspot.com
- "Google" surnames, places, topics to find blogs about your ancestors – As a result of reading blogs, I have found several books about my family; some historical fiction, but good for understanding their lives.

**www.facebook.com**

- County Facebook Pages – search for county name, plus genealogy, history, township, etc.
- Church Facebook Pages – My sister tagged a photo of herself in the graveyard at Zion's Church near Hamburg, PA and mentioned that she was standing at the grave of our 6Xs ggfather, who petitioned the Penn family for the land where the church and cemetery are located. Someone from the church saw the tag and offered to send both of us a church history book free of charge!
- Genealogy or Historical Society Facebook Pages
- "Search" function – look for surnames, comment on posts
- "Photos" – often have photos of ancestors, locations towns, etc.
- Check for files and media that might be of interest

**www.findagrave.com**

- Free; Creating an account allows more user options
- Look beyond the memorial profile
- "View Sources" for creators and contributors
- "Photos" may have additional information, can "view original photo" and can be downloaded
- Check the "Leave a Flower" section– descendants often identify themselves and their relationship to the deceased or leave a flower stating your relationship as "cousin bait"
- Message the creator of a memorial if they have posted new and/or unsourced information – I found: Daniel Washington Wootan my 3Xs ggf has a bio posted by Robert Braun. I sent a message to him and provided a copy of a Bible page for Daniel. He is writing a book about the Black Hawk War and including information about Daniel and his brother Moses. Also, Harriet with a copyrighted document from a book in Germany which she translated and my gggfather Hathaway's Civil War service
- Contribute an edit, a bio, obituary, etc.
- Check periodically for new contributions

**Church and Cemetery Websites**

- History of the church may mention your ancestors as founders or ministers
- Historic photos
- Links to church records
- Burial lists or cemetery map

- Contact the church or cemetery office – I have gotten photos of the church interior, connections to members of the congregation who may be relatives or maybe just experts in church history, locations of graves, etc.

**Local Genealogical & Historical Societies or Libraries**

- Publications, Journals, etc. for sale – I ordered a flash drive loaded with 35 years of the Berks County Genealogical Society's Quarterlies. I continue to find new articles in the list as I expand my tree. Some even sell used books, ex. americanancestors.org /New England Historic Genealogical Society
- Cemetery lists, tax lists, bios, etc. – Sometimes published online
- Links to other resources
- Contact for information
- St. Louis County Public Library offers several free databases and services; **History Geo** is one to try if you had original landowners! https://www.slcl.org/genealogy The slcpl staff will also do lookups from books and periodicals if you submit a request from the website following their guidelines.

**Library Catalogs**

- Know before you go!
- List more than books – Maps, deeds, manuscripts, family tree and group sheets, newspapers, journals
- Volunteers or librarians will often answer questions, do quick look-ups, or will copy (sometimes requires a fee) specific requests.
- Some libraries do not have "open browsing." They require that you give the call number of the materials that you want to the librarian. Some prefer that you email the list to them in advance. That saves lots of research time for you, too!

**www.ancestry.com**

- "Family Trees" – look for well-sourced trees, photos, stories, etc.
- Contact DNA matches and folks who may have posted interesting and/or unsourced materials
- "Member Search" – People often use their real name or email address as their profile name; This applies to facebook.com, as well.

**GenWeb County Pages**

- Content varies, but some sites are GOLDMINES!
- https://usgenweb.org

**TAKE A CHANCE ON A LONG SHOT!**

- Send an email message
- Look up a phone number and call!