

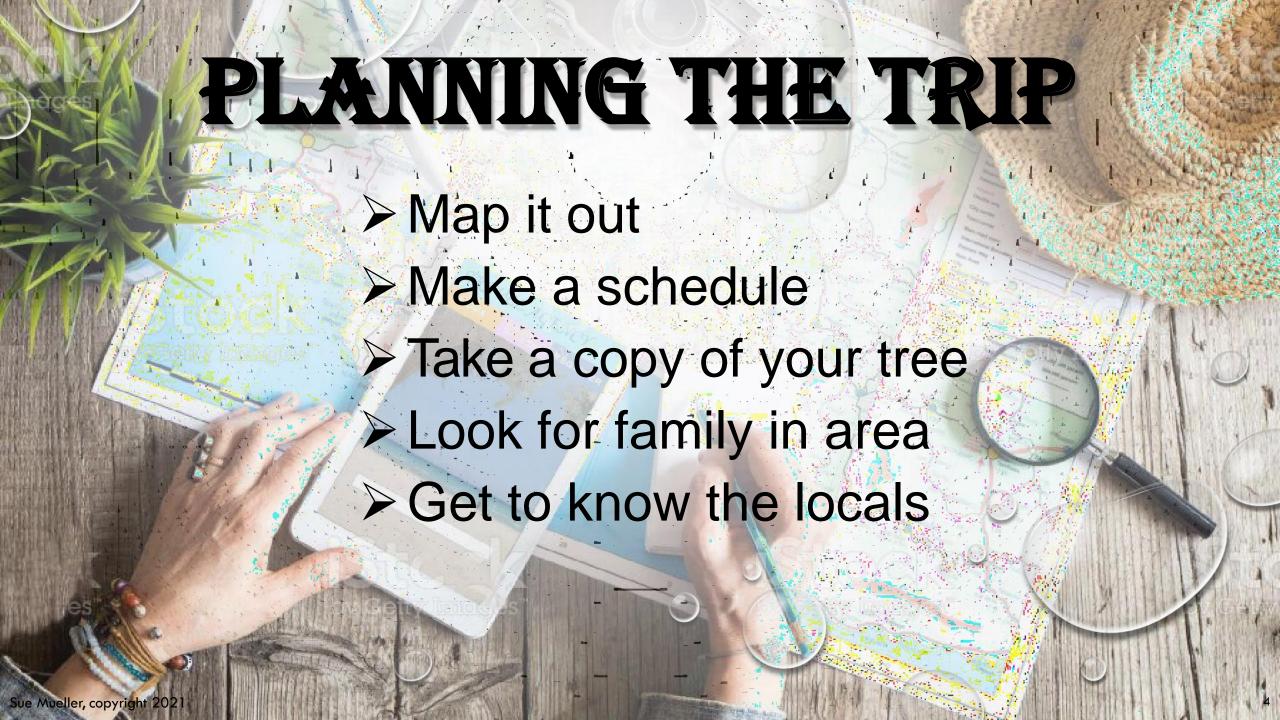
"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage--to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning."



- Alex Haley, Roots

#### SESSION OUTLINE

- > Planning, preparing for your trip
- > Develop local contacts
- > Social media
- > Your friend, the library
- > Internet resources to prepare
- > COVID considerations



#### SCHEDULE AND MAPS

- > Schedule--plan when you want to be, where
  - Check hours of all libraries, archives, and courthouses
  - Offices in small courthouses may close for lunch
- > Print out or take screenshots of maps
  - Especially important in areas with limited cell service
  - ✓ Have directions even if you don't have signal

#### PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

- Create a research plan
  - ✓ What do you already have
  - ✓ What do you want to know
- > Research archival repositories
  - ✓ What records do they hold
  - ✓ Days and times open
  - ✓ Requirements for researching?

# ASK FOR LOCAL ADVICE

- Check library and archive websites for visitor guides; review those before you go
- > Tap into power of social media Facebook
  - ✓ Ask advice of those who research/live there
  - ✓ Get names, contact information
  - ✓ Call ahead

#### FACEBOOK GROUPS

- > Genealogy and history groups and pages
- > 436-page pdf, last updated Jan 2021
- > 16,700+ links
- Now being maintained/updated by Cyndi's List

# FACEBOOK LOCAL ADVICE

- ➤ Target pages and groups relevant to that area, such as:
  - ✓ Library's Facebook page
  - ✓ County, city, region genealogy and/or historical societies
  - ✓ Pages and groups for area history and genealogy

## FACEBOOK - SOCIAL MEDIA

- > Place name and/or topics
- > FTM, ancestry.com users
- > Family groups
- ➤ Genealogy translations
- > Random acts of genealogical kindness
- Random acts of photo restoration



# WITH EVERY CALL/INQUIRY

- > Ask for suggestions
  - ✓ Where else to look?
  - ✓ Who else to contact?
  - ✓ Contact information?
- > Referrals?



# WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU

- > Chargers, power cords, flashdrive
- > Change for copiers
- > Sweater
- > Notepad, pencils, and pens\*
- > Contacts list
- Cemetery kit (whisk broom, clippers, etc.)
- > Printouts of to-do lists

#### MORE THINGS TO TAKE

- Printout of hours, fees, confirmations, special instructions
- Camera, phone, recorder
- > Laptop, scanner
- > Pictures, documents to share
- > Spirit of adventure and sense of humor

## CEMETERY KIT

- > Scissors, clippers
- > Trowel, cultivator, whisk broom
- > Cotton gloves, wet wipes
- > Flashlight, large mirror
- > Cemetery maps, pencil, paper

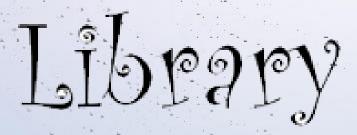
#### TO CLEAN TOMBSTONES

- > Orvus soap
- > Soft scrub brush
- > Plastic card
- ➤ D-2 biologic solution
- > Lots of water, pump dispenser

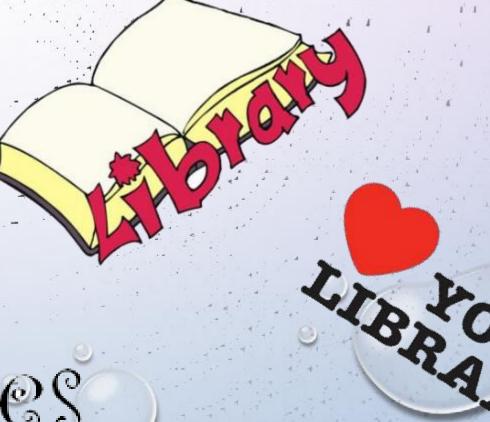
#### LOCAL HISTORICAL/ GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

- > Research library?
- > Newspapers on microfilm
- > Resources online or for sale
  - ✓ Cemetery books
  - ✓ Marriage/divorce indices
  - ✓ Naturalization resources

# THE LIBRARY IS YOUR FRIEND



Resources



## LIBRARY MIGHT OFFER

- > Online and/or in-house subscriptions
- > In-house newspapers on microfilm
- > Special local indicies
- > Start search with surname only
  - ✓ Siblings
  - ✓ Married names



## LIBRARY WEBSITES

- > City, county, university libraries
- > Online and resources vary
- Genealogy links
- Online resources may be for patrons only
- Can you purchase a library card?



# FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH

- Form a research plan AND a back-up plan
- > Check library catalog before you go
- > Explore library's website
- ➤ Check library information CALL
  - ✓ Hours
  - ✓ Restrictions

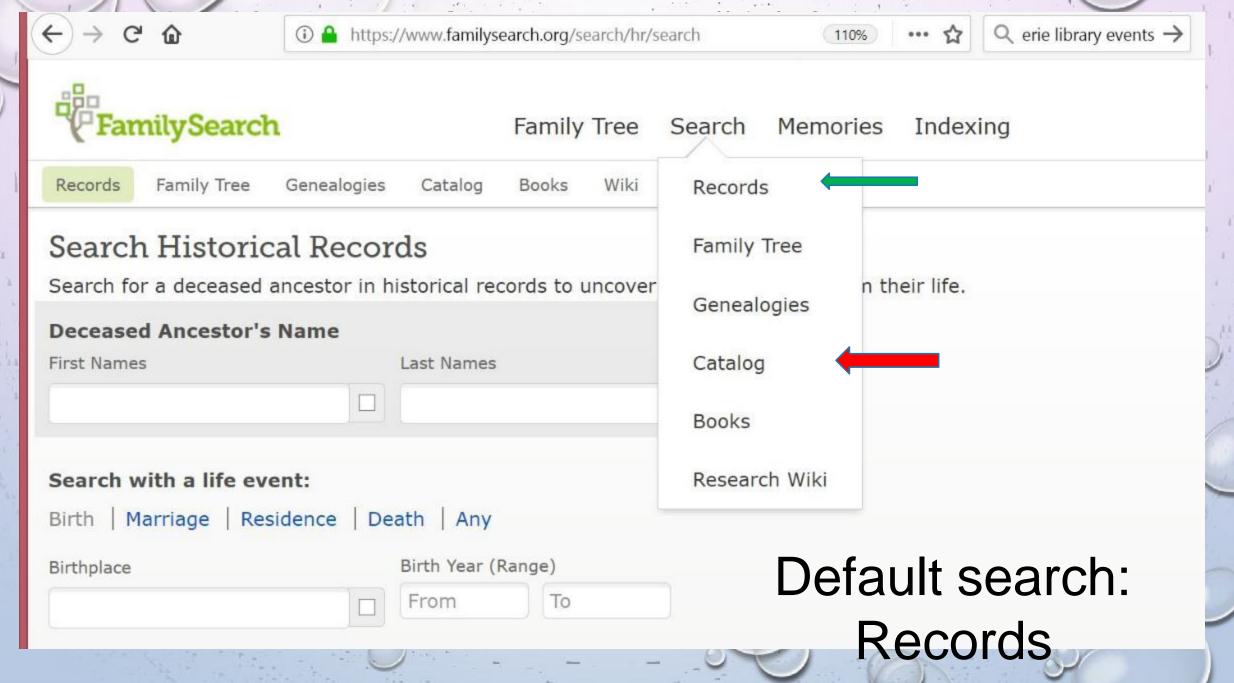


#### SEARCH ONLINE FIRST

- > Many courthouse records are online
  - ✓ Wills, probate, and guardianship records
  - ✓ Some land records
  - ✓ Naturalization records
- > Often not indexed--browsable, not searchable
- Not all historical "courthouse records" are found at the courthouse!

#### FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

- > LDS site, totally free
- > When searching, don't be too restrictive
- ➤ Many browsable resources (not indexed) see **CATALOG** pulldown, then search by location (county only)
- > More resources at FHC/FHLs



# FAMILY SEARCH CATALOG

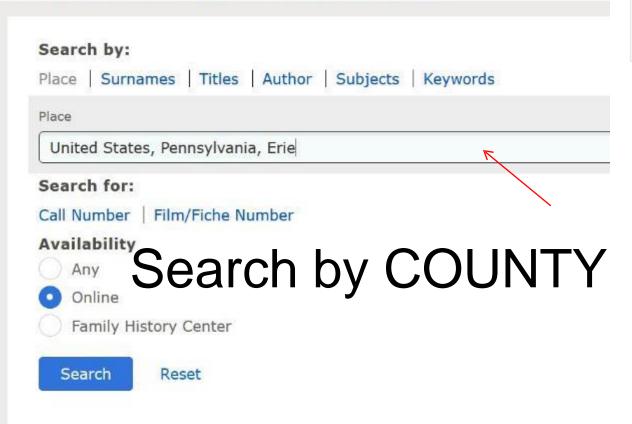
- > Catalog of genealogical materials
- ➤ Books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications
- Not all indexed (or searchable); not all digitized
- > Goal of increased digital access

Susan B. Mueller, Copyright 2021

#### FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, n microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in librar centers worldwide.

Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.



#### Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

#### Notes

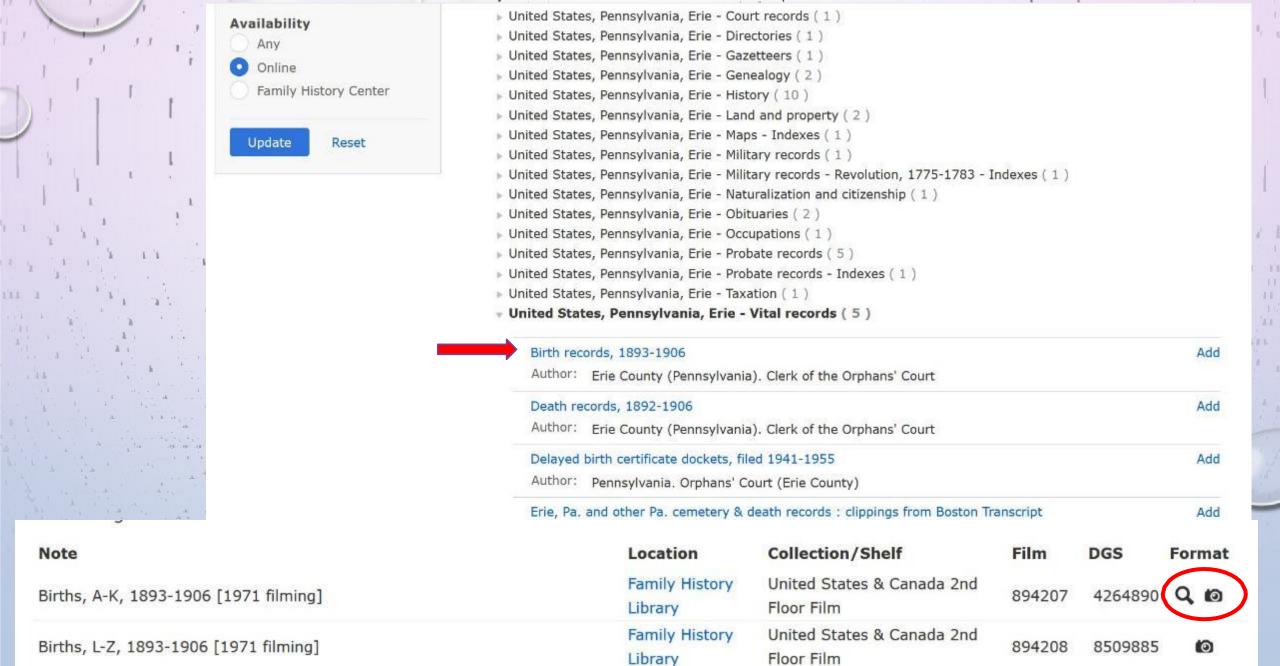
Created March 1800 from part of Allegheny County. Attached to Crawford Co. for several yea formed from Erie Co.

Part of United States, Pennsylvania

Places within United States, Pennsylvania, Erie

- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Archives and libraries Inventories, registers, catalog
   ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Biography (9)
   ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Cemeteries (1)
   ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Cemeteries Indexes (1)
   ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Church history (2)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Court records (1)
   United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Directories (1)
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Gazetteers ( 1 )
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Genealogy (2)
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie History ( 10 )
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Land and property (2)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Maps Indexes (1)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Military records (1)
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Military records Revolution, 1775-1783 Indexes (
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Naturalization and citizenship (1)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Obituaries (2)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Occupations (1)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Probate records (5)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Probate records Indexes (1)
- United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Taxation (1)
- ▶ United States, Pennsylvania, Erie Vital records ( 5 )

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# CEMETERY RESEARCH

- > Large cemeteries may have online database
- > Online cemetery websites
  - √ Find-a-grave.com
  - ✓ Billiongraves.com
  - ✓ Interment.net
- > Cemetery books?

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

# Deaths

F. Leone Bartholomew

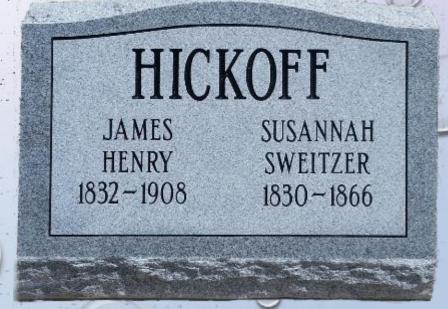
Miss Frances Leone Bartholomew, 74, of 29 North Jay St., dled at 1.55 p. m. yesterday at the Lock Haven Hospital, where she had been a medical patient since Nov. 15.



### FIND-A-GRAVE

- > World-wide database
- > 190+ million entries
- > Volunteers, may have errors
- > Become a member
  - ✓ Make corrections
  - ✓ Manage/sponsor memorials





# F-A-G MAY INCLUDE

- Birth/death dates
- > Places of birth and death
- Names of/links to parents, siblings, spouse, children
- > Pictures: tombstone, person
- Obituary, death certificates
- > GPS



#### BILLIONGRAVES

- > Searchable GPS cemetery data
- Headstone images, transcribed information found on images
- > Free and subscription service
- Incentives to use app and upload pictures

#### OTHER OPTIONS

- > Interment.net (25+ million)
  - ✓ Primarily cemetery transcriptions
  - ✓ Some pictures
- Google search: county/place name + cemetery transcriptions
- > See legacy.com for recent obituaries

# LEGACY.COM

Legacy.com

OBITUARIES - FUNERAL HOMES - NEWSPAPERS - SEND FLOWERS - NEWS & ADVICE -



#### Where life stories live on.

Find and share obituaries from local communities everywhere.

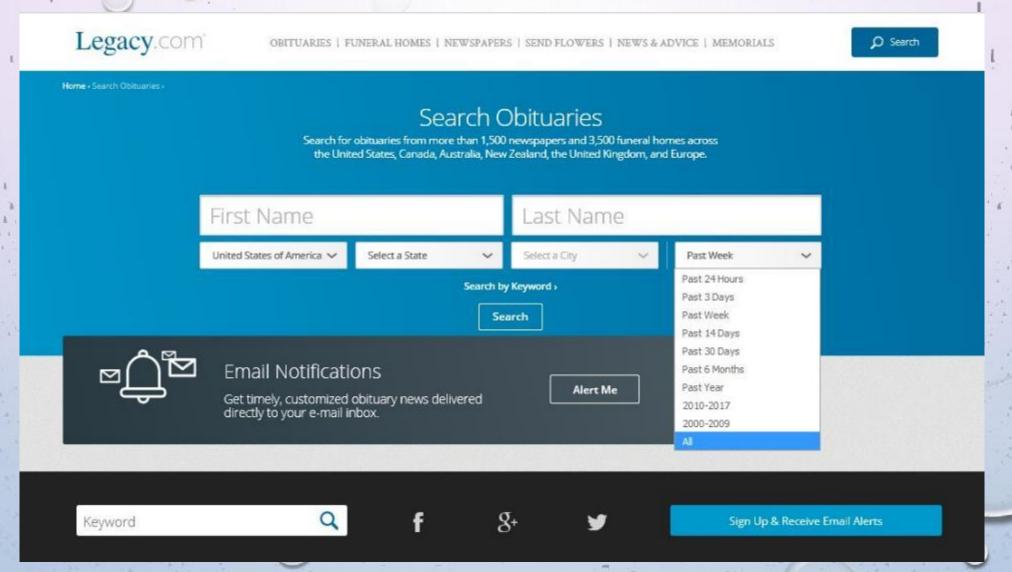
First Name

Last Name

Q Search

More Options >

# MORE OPTIONS - LEGACY

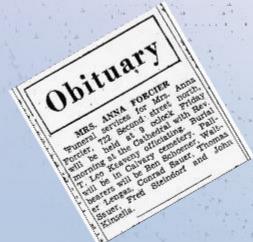


#### OBITUARIES

- > Funeral homes
- Newspapers
- > Library sites
- Google search: name + obituary







#### NEWSPAPER SITES

- > Google newspapers
- > Chronicling America
- > Theancestorhunt
- > State historical newspaper sites

DAILY NEW-

#### CHRONICLING AMERICA

- > Library of Congress site
- ➤ Digitized newspapers, 1836-1963
- > State indices of available newspapers
- > Excellent search engine
- ➤ US newspaper directory 1690-present where to find holdings

# LOCAL CEMETERY RECORDS

- > Inactive, abandoned cemeteries, private land
- > Church office
- > Cemetery association office
- > Maintained by a volunteer?
- > Find out who/where before you travel

## FIND THE CEMETERY

- > Usually no street address
- ➤ Findagrave and/or billiongraves may have latitude/longitude information
- Convert latitude/longitude information to street address

# OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES TO PREPARE FOR TRIP

- > Cyndi's List
- > Theancestorhunt.com
- > Archive.org
- ➤ Google—creative searching



## CYNDI'S LIST

- > Genealogical research portal
- Categorized, cross-referenced index
- "Card catalog" to genealogical collection in Internet library



## THEANCESTORHUNT.COM



#### **Welcome Ancestor Hunters!**

Social wall - Social Media Wall. IO







#### Free Resource Links

Newspapers

**Obituaries** 

**BMD Records** 

Photos

Yearbooks

**Divorce Records** 

**Naturalizations** 

**Immigration** 

**Church Records** 

School Records

**Voter Lists** 

**Coroners Records** 

Probate and Wills

42

# ARCHIVE.ORG

- > Out-of-copyright materials
- > Full text downloadable (pdf)
- > Census records
- > County history books
- > Family history books
- > Also a lending library



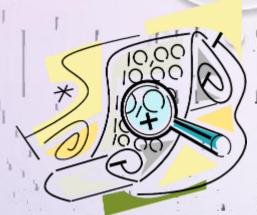
#### CREATIVE SEARCHING

- ➤ Genealogy + husband/wife names
- > Cemetery transcriptions + place name
- Advantages of using google (or other search engines)
- > Use of quotes
- > Ads

# COVID CONSIDERATIONS

- > Facility websites may not be up to date
- > Call close to trip time
  - ✓ Appointment for research?
  - ✓ Time limits for use?
  - ✓ Assistance available?





#### REMEMBER

Genealogy
without documentation
is mythology

#### Questions?

Genealogy Road Trip
Sue Mueller, Genealogy SIG Organizer,
Computer Users of Erie

suepasta@roadrunner.com



