

Sue Mueller
suepasta@roadrunner.com



Virtual Technology Conference
2021
August 21

Genealogy Road Trip

"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



PLANNING THE TRIP

- Map it out
- Make a schedule
- Take a copy of your tree
- Look for family in area
- Get to know the locals

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



Library

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

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/hr/search> 110% ... ☆ 🔍 erie library events →

 Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names ☐ Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Any](#)

Birthplace ☐ Birth Year (Range) From To

Records ←

Family Tree

Genealogies

Catalog ←

Books

Research Wiki

Default search:
Records

FAMILYSEARCH 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

FamilySearch Catalog

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

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

Search by:

[Place](#) | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

United States, Pennsylvania, Erie

Search for:

[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche Number](#)

Availability

☐ Any

☒ Online

☐ Family History Center

Search

Reset

Search by COUNTY

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 years, then 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 (1)
- ▶ 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)

Availability

- ☐ Any
- ☒ Online
- ☐ Family History Center

Update

Reset

- ▶ 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 (1)
- ▶ 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)**

[Birth records, 1893-1906](#)

[Add](#)

Author: Erie County (Pennsylvania). Clerk of the Orphans' Court

[Death records, 1892-1906](#)

[Add](#)

Author: Erie County (Pennsylvania). Clerk of the Orphans' Court

[Delayed birth certificate docket, filed 1941-1955](#)

[Add](#)

Author: Pennsylvania. Orphans' Court (Erie County)

[Erie, Pa. and other Pa. cemetery & death records : clippings from Boston Transcript](#)

[Add](#)

Note

Births, A-K, 1893-1906 [1971 filming]

Births, L-Z, 1893-1906 [1971 filming]

Location

[Family History Library](#)

[Family History Library](#)

Collection/Shelf

United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film

United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film

Film

894207

894208

DGS

4264890

8509885

Format



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., died 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 ▾

 Search

Where life stories live on.

Find and share obituaries from local communities everywhere.

 Search

[More Options >](#)

MORE OPTIONS - LEGACY

Legacy.com®

OBITUARIES | FUNERAL HOMES | NEWSPAPERS | SEND FLOWERS | NEWS & ADVICE | MEMORIALS

Search

Home • Search Obituaries •

Search Obituaries

Search for obituaries from more than 1,500 newspapers and 3,500 funeral homes across the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Europe.

United States of America ▾


Select a State ▾

Select a City ▾

Past Week ▾

Search by Keyword ▾

Search



Email Notifications

Get timely, customized obituary news delivered directly to your e-mail inbox.

Alert Me

Past 24 Hours

Past 3 Days

Past Week

Past 14 Days

Past 30 Days


Past 6 Months




Past Year

2010-2017

2000-2009

All





Sign Up & Receive Email Alerts

Sue Mueller, copyright 2021

34

OBITUARIES

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



*In
Loving
Memory*



NEWSPAPER SITES

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



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
- Theancestorphunt.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 - [SocialMediaWall.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](#)

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

