



# WHO are you?

## GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·

August – September 2020



### TIME

During this very strange COVID TIME when things are how shall I say? – there really isn't a word – confusing? mixed up? odd? TIME and how we live within a framework of TIME constraints is really quite different than what we were used to last year. I happened upon a detailed article in my genealogy file -- an article by William Dollarhide titled, "The 1752

Calendar Change in North America." Basically, the article focuses on calendar changes that have taken place across the world that offer significant changes in dates for genealogy research. For instance, many Catholic countries changed the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar in 1582 (per order of Pope Gregory XIII's decree), but Protestant countries such as Holland, Belgium, and some parts of Germany did not change until 1700. Then the British government made the change to the Gregorian in 1752. All of this has to do with the uneven-ness of years (you know Leap Year and such). There are other changes as well and all of this makes quite a difference in terms of birth, death etc. dates. *If you would like to study this further for your ancestors, I will send you the document in pdf*

### Date Extended

### To end of September

This is an extraordinary time to get to know Ancestry for **FREE** with **ALE, Ancestry Library Edition**. Later, you may want to subscribe to regular Ancestry.com so you can get deeper into the research with a few more functions. So, you ask what's different? Basically, the difference is that you cannot personalize anything with **ALE** because others are using the same software. With Ancestry.com there



Is a monthly fee and you can set up a family tree, which means that others can contact you and you them, if you choose. Collaborating with a public profile and message boards offers you many possibilities of learning more about your own family history. Some of the databases are not available on the library version, but ALE is not specific about this. On the other hand, like many other opportunities offered by the public library, where else can you get so much stuff for FREE!!!

From [www.mohrlibrary.org](http://www.mohrlibrary.org)  
Resources, then Research Tools

### New Collection Alert!

Since June 2020, **ALE, Ancestry Library Edition** includes more than 750 million Obituaries back to the 1800s from Newspapers.com. Search Obituaries in New Collections or filter by Newspapers.

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.  
~ Robert Frost

All we have to decide is what to do with the **time** that is given us.  
~ J. R. R. Tolkien



### Tour is Canceled

Due to extenuating circumstances related to the current Pandemic, the library group will **not be able** to go on a tour, "Important Interments" at the North Burial Ground in Providence, as previously scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 4- 5:30

**This is a great time to search for ancestors and relatives in Cemeteries that are currently open.**

### Sources

#### German or Polish Genealogy?

Whereas we don't usually cover these two nationalities (and others), Family Tree has several articles on websites for Polish research and a complete guide for German ancestral searching. The level of difficulty increases due to the language barrier. Contact me for a copy.



### Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

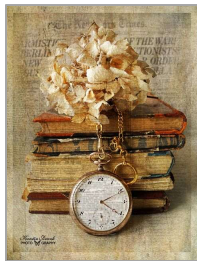
**LIBRARY Hours -- Closed Saturdays for summer  
Closed until further notice. Call 401-231-4980, x 6**

This newsletter is created and written by **Grayce Moorehead, MILS**

email: [gmoorehead@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:gmoorehead@mohrlibrary.org)

## Timeline Thoughts

Recently, for want of something captivating to read – unrelated to our present pandemic situation, I started to read some new non-fiction about life in the West during the 1800's. The first book was "Tombstone" by Tom Clavin. Feeling it took me out of the present reality of Covid chit chat, I moved on to "Butch Cassidy: the true story of an American Outlaw" by Charles Leerhsen. So you ask how does this relate to genealogy? The connection hit me! My relatives lived in the very same timeframe as Butch – but wow, what a completely different cultural part of the United States! While Butch and the gang were looting banks And pretty much acting like very old 12 years olds, shooting it out on horseback, the Vanderbilts of the Gilded Age (named by Mark Twain) were building boast worthy "cottages" on the Newport shoreline to rival what they had viewed on extravagant galavants to Europe and beyond. Not too much earlier the trial of the century – that of Lizzie Borden was taking place in Fall River – less than a mile from John Darling's grocery store. Theodore Roosevelt was assembling his Rough Riders to fight in Cuba and my great great grandmother was reorganizing her life after the sudden passing of her husband, John Darling. There's really quite a lot you could do with a timeline to enrich your appreciation for the timeframe when your relatives lived. What architectural wonders are being designed, what weather events took place, what relevant people were making their biographies rich with stories? And so on....Explore the time of their lives!



## Obituaries and newspapers

If you know the date of death of your ancestor or relative and the city/ town where they died, check the local public library and see if they have a digitized version of the newspaper covering that area. This can be a more direct search method than going the newspaper route and searching first. I recently contacted the Fall River Public Library with such a request, and I was totally surprised to receive more than I asked for. In place of an obituary, the librarians turned up 3 very small articles about John A. Darling. In my eyes, he is somewhat of a regular sort of guy, that is, he did not hold any political office or was an important author or well-known architect or such. But the articles – or perhaps death notices—were loaded with lots of details. Not only were the painful details of his last hours noted of what he was doing when he died, but also I learned that he had a grocery business. Even better than that there were dates and names of engagements that he participated in in the Civil War, some of which I did not know. WOW!!!!



## Digitized Books -2 Kinds

**Research:** There are some great resources for you available for FREE if you know where to look. Some of these books are specific Genealogical Research.

**Leisure Reading:** If you don't know EZONE – ebooks and audiobooks – FREE for Rhode Island Library patrons you are seriously missing out!

Contact me and I will get you set up  
401- 231-4980, x 6



## Video Handout: Gravestone Markers, Icons & Medallions

Yes, the handouts are a lots of work but fun to research. Your good words make them well worthwhile to create.



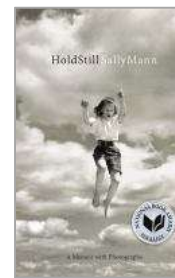
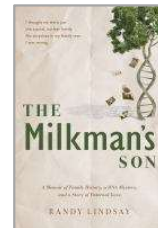
## Book Reviews

from Beth Hurd

### The Milkman's Son: a memoir of family history, a DNA mystery, and paternal love

by Randy Lindsay, 2020

The author's (a writer) life is up-ended after starting to research his family's genealogy. In the book – a quick and easy read – Randy treats finding a whole other family --with humor and compassion, following surprise and confusion. The only father he has ever known is not a DNA match to himself. Spoiler alert: good ending



### Hold Still: a memoir with photographs

by Sally Mann [well-known photographer]

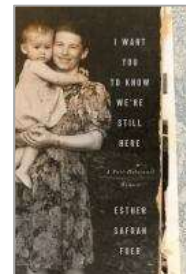
Mann starts by going through boxes of photos, letters and other ephemera she has stored in boxes in her attic. Mann, born in 1951, examines how her

family's history has shaped her life, career and her photography. As a result, she provides a very well written chronicle that will give ideas for you!

### I want you to know we're still here: a post-Holocaust memoir

by Esther Safran Foer

Foer has an almost insurmountable challenge in her genealogy search: her parents were both Holocaust survivors, both sets of grandparents were murdered, as were most of both of their extended families. Foer has unanswered questions, and only a few clues for tracing her family's history back through war-torn Eastern European countries, whose names and borders changed many times over the years, where deaths were not recorded and the stories of the villages no longer in existence are continually disappearing. Foer uses Internet genealogy sites and eventually in-person research while traveling in Israel and Ukraine, talking to older residents and local experts. The stories are tragic, and the book provides a big dose of history and is ultimately about a family's survival.



I am done with a 90 trial of 2020.  
How do I cancel my membership?



## Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

One Memorial Avenue ■ Johnston, RI 02919 ■ 401-231-4980  
■ fax: 401-231-4984 ■ website: <http://www.mohrlibrary.org>

