Handout – Session #2 – October 12

# Researching Using Free Online Resources

## Syllabus contents:

1. More about FamilySearch website – advanced searching using wildcards, saving your searches, and using advanced features such as collections and genealogies
2. Analyzing what you have found – using dates and logic to decide – is this my ancestor?
3. Citing your sources so you can find the information again, and prevent printing or saving multiple copies of the same thing
4. Cyndi's List - the mother of all genealogical lists
5. Commonly used websites: Find-A-Grave, PA Births and Deaths, Ellis Island, Castle Garden

FamilySearch website [www.familysearch.o](http://www.familysearch.o)rg

Ancestry website [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Wildcard tutorial:

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/searching-wildcards-familysearch-2/>

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2010/01/04/ancestry-search-improved-wildcard-flexibility/>

<https://danamccullough.com/2015/09/01/how-to-use-wildcards-in-familysearch-org-searches/>

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Now-What-Online-Search-Wildcards/>

Find-A-Grave website

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

Cyndi’s List

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

PA Births and Deaths – this is an index only

Here’s the PA Dept. of Health page for Births: <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Birth-Indices.aspx>

And Deaths: <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Death-Indices.aspx>

Here’s a link to Familysearch WIKI: <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pennsylvania_Vital_Records>

Here’s information on how to get copies of the actual certificates once you find them in the index: <http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates/Public-Records/Pages/20686.aspx#.V_zRCyTnqQc>

Check out other states in the Familysearch WIKI by using the search bar