

## Back to School with Your One-Name Study

As most of us know, one-name studies require a working knowledge of many different subjects. If you are like most of us, you probably did not learn it all in school, or perhaps it has been a few years since you finished school. No worries, if you have the time, the dedication, and the resources, you can be a life-long learner and get the most out of going back to school with your one-name study.

### Are You Ready to Go Back to School?

- ❖ What do you want to learn and why?
- ❖ Do you have a plan?
- ❖ What type of learner are you?
- ❖ Putting it all together – be an A+ student

### Finding Out What is Available and Worth Your Investment

- ❖ What is available
- ❖ Where to find it
- ❖ How to use it

### Some Suggestions for Negotiating the Schoolyard

- ❖ Be a discerning student
- ❖ Get a sense of the instructor
- ❖ Know your limits
- ❖ Practice makes memory
- ❖ Mix it up

**The very best resource for surname research and one-name studies is the [Guild of One-Name Studies' Website](#), where you can find the following:**

- ◆ General Information about one-name studies
- ◆ Whether the surname you are interested in is a registered study
- ◆ How to start a one-name study
- ◆ Wiki that contains information and links by subject and country, as well as by the 7 Pillars approach
- ◆ DNA Wiki that contains information about DNA studies, how to get started and run a DNA study as part of your one-name study
- ◆ Guild Journal published quarterly, with volumes from 1980-present available to view (with the ability to search all articles)
- ◆ Members' Websites Project – members' websites hosted by the Guild in a variety of formats, including The Next Generation
- ◆ Members' Mailing List and Forum – where members can ask questions and interact with fellow members
- ◆ Social Media – Facebook Page (open to the public) and Facebook Group (closed available to members) for news, tips, questions, and information about all things related to surname research and one-name studies
- ◆ Chairman's Newsletter
- ◆ General News
- ◆ Webinars – recordings of monthly webinars are available
- ◆ Seminars – information about upcoming seminars held quarterly as well as recordings from past seminars from 2006-present are available
- ◆ Annual Conference – recordings of past conference sessions from 2012- present are available

## Some Resources to Get You Started

### Offline Resources

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom – The Art of One-Name Studies*, Guild of One-Name Studies (2012, self-published)  
*The Son Also Rises: Surnames and The History of Social Mobility*, Gregory Clark (2014, Princeton University Press)  
***The Surnames Handbook: A Guide to Family Name Research In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Debbie Kennett (2012, The History Press)**  
*What's In A Surname?* David McKie (2014, Windmill Books)  
*A Dictionary of Surnames*, Patrick Hanks & Flavia Hodges (1989, Oxford University Press)  
*American Surnames*, Elsdon C. Smith (2003, Genealogical Publishing Company – originally published 1969)  
*Dictionary of American Family Names*, edited by Patrick Hanks (2003, Oxford University Press)  
*A Dictionary of English Surnames*, David Hey (1997, Oxford University Press)  
*Surname Atlas of Germany: Distribution Maps of the 2001 Most Frequent Surnames in Germany*, Kenneth D. McCrea, Ph.D. (2011, McCrea Research, Inc.)  
*The Surnames of Ireland*, Edward MacLysaght (1985, Irish Academic Press)  
*Our Italian Surnames*, Joseph G. Fucilla (2003, Genealogical Publishing Company – originally published 1949)  
*Family Names of the Island of Newfoundland*, E.R. Seary (1977, McGill-Queen's University Press – corrected edition edited by William J. Kirwin, 1998)  
*The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning & History*, George F. Black with Mary Elder Black (2015, Churchill & Dunn, Ltd.

### Online resources (websites, videos, & software)

[www.ancestry.com/learn/facts](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts) (fast facts about surnames)  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (wiki, state research guides, video tutorials, records & indexes from around the world AND rootsweb.com – check out surname mailing lists)  
[www.americanlist.names.com](http://www.americanlist.names.com) (fast facts about surnames)  
[www.archersoftware.co.uk](http://www.archersoftware.co.uk) (Surname Atlas – mapping surnames using the UK census data)  
[www.britishsurnames.co.uk](http://www.britishsurnames.co.uk) (meaning, origin, and history of surnames)  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (statistical analysis of surname ranking & frequency in the USA using census data)  
[www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com) (mapping surnames & migration)  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (wiki covering location and surname research, video tutorials, and records & indexes from around the world)  
[www.namethesaurus.com](http://www.namethesaurus.com) (meaning, origin and surname data)  
[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) (methodology, registered surnames, member profiles, wiki, ongoing and archived research)  
[www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com) (courses on family history topics include surname research and one-name studies)  
[www.surnameorigins.ca](http://www.surnameorigins.ca) (meaning and origin of surnames)  
[www.surnamestudies.org.uk](http://www.surnamestudies.org.uk) (data and methodology used with surname studies)  
[www.wikipedia.org/wiki](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki) (topic research - surnames, one-name study, surnames, and locations)  
[www.worldnames.publicprofiler.org](http://www.worldnames.publicprofiler.org) (meaning, origin, mapping surnames)  
**[History of Surnames on YouTube](#) (published by GensVideoWebChannel)**

## ❖ Tutorials

Be sure to check out various companies or software websites for tutorials about how to use their products. If you want to learn how to use your genealogy database program or your productivity tools, your first stop should be the source. Often you will find a wealth of tutorials, PDF manuals and guides, and sometimes a help center. Two of the big players in genealogy (Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org) provide excellent tutorials on using records, research tools, and both basic and specialized genealogy guidance.

- ◆ The [Learning Center at Ancestry.com](#) has great information for beginners and intermediate researchers. From *What's New* to *First Steps to Research Guides* to *5-Minute Finds*, Ancestry provides a variety of tutorial learning at its website.
- ◆ The [Learning Center at FamilySearch.org](#) houses an amazing collection of online genealogy courses to help you improve your knowledge and increase your skills. You can access these videos by format, skill level, subject, and place. This site also houses the [RootsTech 2018 videos](#) (38 videos including keynotes, DNA sessions, and presentations).

## ❖ Videos & Slide Presentations

Videos and slide presentations are available on a wide range of subjects and are found all over the internet. They are posted by individuals, schools, companies and organizations. The top three sites to find videos and slides (in terms of size, variety and free to access) are [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#), and [SlideShare](#).

### YouTube Videos

Whether you use YouTube videos to watch recorded presentations or want to learn how to do something, the possibilities are endless. Simply search for whatever it is you want to learn more about. The videos are free and play on your schedule. Want your own broadcast studio and channel? Then sign up for an account, take the online course through [YouTube Creator Academy](#) and share your knowledge with the world. Here are just a few of the many helpful genealogy-based YouTube Channels.

- ◆ [Ancestry](#) – Ancestry posts many of its tutorials and how to videos not only to its website but also to its YouTube Channel.
- ◆ [FamilySearch](#) – FamilySearch posts many of its tutorials but also showcases its facilities, includes interviews and special projects (1940 Census and Veterans Day are two examples)
- ◆ [FindMyPast](#) – Findmypast posts about their website, including tutorials, but also has a weekly program called Findmypast Fridays live with news and tips
- ◆ [MyHeritage](#) – My Heritage posts many videos related to DNA testing and videos about how to use their website.
- ◆ [The Ancestor Hunt](#) – Kenneth R. Marks' emphasis is on newspaper research and he spotlights a particular State's newspaper offerings in each video (and accompanying blog).
- ◆ [BYU Family History Library](#) – BYU's videos provide tours of its library facilities, as well as how-to videos on using research tools and researching in foreign countries' records.
- ◆ [GenealogyBank](#) – GenealogyBank has posted 8 videos focusing on newspaper research and how to use their website (GenealogyBank also links to other YouTube channels that cover newspaper research in depth).
- ◆ [Genealogy Gems](#) – Lisa Louise Cooke covers a wide variety of topics including technology and genealogy, with wonderful how-to videos for Google products and interviews with some of the best new internet companies (her focus is on great products that can be applied to genealogy!).
- ◆ **[Maurice Gleeson](#) – Maurice Gleeson focuses on DNA and its use in genealogy. If you didn't get your high school or college level biology classes (or it has been a few years and science has marched forward) and you want to be entertained while you learn all about DNA, this series is for you.**
- ◆ [PBS](#) – the Public Broadcasting Service uploads many of their American Experience and other documentaries and specials. An excellent opportunity to revisit history through the lens of those who lived it and studied it.

- ◆ [TessaWatch](#) – I focus on technology and methodology as it relates to one-name studies (surname research), one-place studies (location research), genealogy database software, and my own family history research.
- ◆ [23andMe](#) – if you want to learn more about DNA research and its application to genealogy, 23andMe provides some very clear videos.
- ◆ [US National Archives](#) – a wonderful channel that you can get lost in while you learn about the Archives and watch video events on important topics (be sure to check out *Inside the Vault*).
- ◆ [UK National Archives](#) – another great channel that you can get lost in while you learn about the UK government's office archives and tips for planning a visit.

#### ❖ Wikis

Wikis are websites that allow for collaborative editing of their content by users. Whether you use a general wiki such as Wikipedia, or one focused on genealogy (and be sure to check if your society or association has a wiki) these are great places to learn and find links for further research.

- ◆ [Ancestry.com](#) – has two excellent books *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* and the *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, as well as articles on specific resources and topics found at its [Help Center](#) and short courses on a variety of topics in the [Ancestry Academy](#).
- ◆ [FamilySearch.org](#) – over 88,053 articles on the [Family History Research Wiki](#), whether you want to learn about a place or a topic, or methodology and record sets.
- ◆ [Wikipedia](#) – this is the website that started it all – and it still provides excellent information *to get you started* when researching most any topic. You will want to focus on articles with footnotes (and then click through to those sources to read more about it) but this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century online encyclopedia.

#### ❖ Blogs, Podcasts & Social Networking

- ◆ [ConferenceKeeper](#) – If you want to find out about genealogy conferences, events, calls for papers, and news for all things genealogy-related, you will want to check out ConferenceKeeper. Especially helpful are the events listed by location (in person events) as well as the virtual conferences and online learning opportunities.
- ◆ [Evidence Explained](#) – Elizabeth Shown Mills not only wrote the book on sources and citations, she maintains a website that includes a blog, showcases some of the book content, provides quick lessons, and hosts a forum (for when researchers want to get into all those tough questions). A terrific opportunity to put the lessons into practice with Elizabeth's guidance. Note this link is to her Facebook Page as the website is currently being updated.
- ◆ [GeneaBloggersTRIBE](#) – is an online community of almost 3,000 family history bloggers originally curated by Thomas MacEntee but it now in the capable hands of 12 well known bloggers (including 2 with one-name studies). You can not only search for blogging resources and prompts, but you can also search for blogs by title or subject matter. This is a great way to search through the blogs and connect with others who share your particular interests, whether it is a country, a time period, or a surname.
- ◆ [Genea-Musings](#) – Randy Seaver blogs about his adventures with his personal genealogy, his volunteer activities with the Chula Vista Genealogy Society, his Saturday Night Genealogy Fun missions, and his never-ending quest to kick the tires on all the genealogy programs out there (probably his engineering background). This is a helpful blog to stay on top of the technology associated with genealogy and one-name studies.
- ◆ Lisa Louise Cooke's [Genealogy Gems Podcast](#) – one of the first and it remains one of the best podcasts for genealogy. Lisa has 221 episodes with show notes, so you can easily find the links and websites mentioned during the podcast.
- ◆ Lisa Louise Cooke's [Family History: Genealogy Made Easy Podcast](#) – is an excellent step-by-step series for genealogists of all abilities. The 45 episodes provide a free education from getting started, to working with particular record sets, to organizing your genealogy files. Lisa is updating this series with revised show

notes but the “meat of the podcasts” remains fresh and entertaining – a wonderful primer for beginners and some excellent reminders for intermediate genealogists.

- ◆ [Marian Pierre Louis’ The Genealogy Professional Podcast](#) – while this podcast has not been updated since September 2017, the 49 episodes are great interviews with genealogy professionals from all over the world. They are entertaining and educational. Marian’s “action items” help you focus on doing something with your new-found knowledge.
- ◆ [Groups on Facebook](#) and [Communities on Google+](#) - if you enjoy social media and interaction with other genealogists, you will want to check out the variety of groups/communities that are available on Facebook and Google+. Whether you are looking for a topic (organization, software, technology), a place (Friends of Plate Cove, Kentucky genealogy, Canadian genealogy), or an organization (Federated Genealogical Societies, Guild of One-Name Studies, Southern California Genealogical Society) – there is something for everyone! In order to take advantage of either feature you will need to have an account, search for the groups or communities you are interested in, and then either join or ask to join (some are open, others are closed or limit their membership). Members post information and questions, share finds or upcoming events, work through genealogy problems together, and can also get together through instant messages or video conferences. Many organizations use Facebook or Google for their monthly meetings and member updates. **Facebook Groups and Pages are where you will find genealogists, family historians, social historians, local history and genealogy societies – and not to be missed is Katherine Willson’s Genealogy on Facebook List with over 12,300 links to every genealogy-related Facebook Group and Page (updated in June 2018).**
- ◆ [Genchat on Twitter](#) – a fast paced conversation using Twitter and focusing on a particular topic with set questions. Organized by Jen Baldwin and held on the second and fourth Friday of the month, you can simply follow along or jump right into the conversation.

#### ❖ Discussion Boards

- ◆ [GenForum](#) – this discussion board is undergoing big changes (in September 2014 it will be a read only format) but this is a good place to go to find messages and queries by surname, by location, and by topic.
- ◆ [Rootsweb.com](#) – one of the first discussion boards, a place to find other researchers, ask questions, and get research assistance. Be sure to check in regularly and keep your own email address up-to-date. New genealogists come to this site and just may have the information you have been looking for or you can assist them with a bit of genealogical kindness. Rootsweb was taken up by Ancestry and many of the society and association sites were down for an extended period of time, but recently sites have been informed that they should be able to update their sites. During the extended downtime, many societies and associations made the leap to Facebook Pages and/or started hosting their own websites. The Ancestry Wiki can be accessed through Rootsweb.

#### ❖ Webinars

Your first stop to find out about genealogy webinars, online meetings and hangouts should be the online calendar found on [GeneaWebinars.com](#), put together by Pat Richley-Erickson (better known as *Dear Myrtle*). You can check the calendar, click through to learn more, register (if necessary), and place the event on your online calendar all in one place! If you want to sign up for online learning opportunities or you or your group provides them, get your information on this calendar and blog.

- ◆ [Guild of One-Name Studies](#) – hosts a monthly webinar that is free to the public (registration required). The topics all relate to one-name studies. During 2018 the topics focus on the 7 Pillars approach to a one-name study. The recordings are available for 7 days after the presentation and after that, they are available behind the member paywall. (Membership \$24.00/annually)
- ◆ [Illinois Genealogical Society](#) – hosts a monthly webinar (sponsored by FamilySearch) that is free to the public (registration required). The recordings are behind the member paywall and available to ISGS members. (Membership \$30)
- ◆ [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#) – Geoff Rasmussen of Millennia/MyHeritage hosts weekly webinars held every Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as recorded webinars for members only on Fridays. The webinars

are on a wide variety of genealogy topics and are free to attend (the webinars also remain on their website for 7 days after the presentation). After that, the recordings are available for individual purchase or through a subscription. 90% of the webinars are subject-matter based and the other 10% of the webinars address using Legacy software or add-on programs, as well as MyHeritage products. (Membership \$49.95/annually)

- ◆ Southern California Genealogical Society – although known for their annual Jamboree, the SCGS also hosts a webinar twice each month with some of the top genealogy speakers in the country. You can attend live for free, however the 160 recorded versions are behind the member paywall. (Membership \$40/annually)
- ◆ Utah Genealogical Society – the UGS puts together the Salt Lake Institute for Genealogy (SLIG) and also provides a monthly webinar through its “virtual chapter” presentations. You can attend the webinar live for free, however the archived versions are behind the member paywall. (Membership \$35/annually)
- ◆ Virtual Genealogy Association – started in 2018, this society is completely online and international in scope. Their tagline is Virtual meetings & conferences. Any time. Any place. Founded in April 2018, VGA hosts 3 webinars a month on a variety of topics. The webinars are limited to paid members. (Membership \$20/annually)

#### ❖ **Online Courses (through organizations and universities)**

*General Knowledge:* Be willing to “think outside the box” – not all educational opportunities are or should be genealogy-based. Take advantage of websites that help you learn (or re-learn) the basics, help you master new subject matter, and focus on specific technology or subjects. An added bonus - you will meet learners from all walks of life.

- ◆ Khan Academy – billed as “Start learning now – completely free, forever” Khan Academy is the place to go to *learn now what you didn’t learn then*. In order to understand DNA, you might need to brush up on biology, to work with statistics you might need to brush up on math. Courses are offered in learning modules and cover math, civics, history, biology and economics. This is a great resource to learn the basics and beyond – and it’s free.
- ◆ Canvas Network – offers free online courses from a variety of American colleges and universities on a number of topics. From *The Civil War Era: Dividing a Nation* to *Thinking Like a Writer* to *Mastering Academic Research: Information Skills for Successful Students*, these courses provide background knowledge that will improve your research and writing skills and broaden your understanding of history. The courses include video, discussion forums and activities/assignments.
- ◆ Coursera – offers the opportunity to take courses online, for free – “*improve your life and your community’s life through education.*” Coursera offers almost 700 courses from universities and organizations around the world. You can sign up for a course and then learn on your own schedule. The courses are taught through video lectures, with interactive quizzes, peer-graded assessments and discussions with classmates and teachers. With courses like *Understanding Social Media*, *the French Revolution*, *Writing Composition*, *The Kennedy Half Century*, or *the History of the Slave South*, there is something that should spark your interest and send you back to school.
- ◆ Future Learn – offers free online courses from leading UK and international universities. From *England in the time of Richard III* to *Developing Your Research Project* to *Exploring English: Language & Culture* to *Data to Insight: An Introduction to Data Analysis*, you will be able to place your people in history and plan your research projects like a pro. Courses are taught through lecture and videos, articles, group discussions, assignments and quizzes.
- ◆ **Google Power Searching – whether you want to figure out how to search efficiently or take your searches to the next level with advanced power searching, Google offers two online courses to help you get the most out of Search. Using a combination of video lectures, hangouts, assignments, assessments and a final test, Google helps you make your online search activities easier and more focused. And when you are ready to learn even more, check out Google Search Education.**
- ◆ Trinity College Dublin has launched several free MOOCs (massive open online courses) – *Irish Lives in War and Revolution: Exploring Ireland’s History 1912-1923*, a 6 week online course that started again on September 17 2018. Using videos, assignments and discussions, as well as Twitter conversations, the

professors at Trinity will help you further your understanding of Ireland's political and cultural history during this pivotal time.

*Family History & Genealogy Focused Knowledge:* In addition to increasing your general knowledge, it is important to hone those genealogy research skills. You can attend seminars and week-long conferences, but what if your schedule, personal obligations or finances make that type of education impossible? Why not take advantage of online courses.

- ◆ American Genealogical Studies, is the National Genealogical Society's move to cloud-based learning. Students work on a lesson module basis that combines articles, videos, websites with activities/assignments and communication via private message board, as well as quizzes. Currently NGS has *The Basics, Guide to Documentation and Source Citation, Beyond the Basics, and Branching Out* (\$75/member and \$100/nonmember for 2 bundled courses) available.
- ◆ Boston University – Genealogical Principles Course is a 7-week online course for those who want to improve their research skills and gain a better understanding of best practices. The next session begins in January 2019 (\$995)
- ◆ Boston University – Certificate Program in Genealogical Research is a 15-week online certificate program used by many in the field to increase professional development, improve their job qualifications, and use in conjunction with other related genealogical fields. The next session begins in January 2019 (\$2,695)
- ◆ Brigham Young University – BYU Independent Study online courses offers ten free non-credit online genealogy courses that can be accessed simply by providing your email account. Included are introductory courses, record type and regional and ethnic research.
- ◆ Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)– provides in-depth courses during the summer months. Each course is over a one week period, focused on a particular topic with 18 one-hour sessions, assignments and case studies. Students stay in on-campus housing and serious hands-on learning and discussions with instructors and classmates is part of the “learning experience.”
- ◆ National Institute for Genealogical Study (NIGS) – provides web-based courses for family historians and genealogists. Courses are offered on a variety of levels, leading to certificates in genealogical studies and specialization in various countries (including courses on country-based records, librarianship, methodology, surname and location studies, professional development, as well as short-term and non-credit courses). Students combine reading, projects/assignments, public chats and private consultations, as well as final tests. Courses are fee-based.
- ◆ **PharosTutors – provides a wealth of web-based courses for family historians and genealogists. The company was established by Helen Osborn (who is a member of the Guild and a professional genealogist from England) and Sherry Irvine (a professional genealogist from Canada). The courses are offered both tutor led and tutor led with a certificate. Two of their excellent courses that can assist you with your one-name study are Introduction to One-Name Studies, a 5 week course (the next session begins in October 2018) and Advanced One-Name Studies, a 6 week course (the next session begins in November 2019). The Guild has an arrangement with Pharos Tutors for discounts on courses. Be sure to check out their subject and record set specific courses.**

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) similar in format to the GRIP, it provides a high-intermediate to advanced education in records & resources, regional research, ethnic research, DNA, methodology, and writing. Each course is for one week and the students and instructors interact not only during class but also at the Family History Library and in luncheon and evening sessions. SLIG is an excellent opportunity to learn about a particular subject in-depth and combine coursework with research. SLIG also offers virtual programs and a separate Tech Day offered in September.

#### ❖ Peer Study Groups

- ◆ DearMYRTLE hosts a variety of sessions and study groups, including ESM's Quick Lessons, Beginning Genealogy, Tracing Immigrant Ancestors, and British & Irish Military History. The sessions and study groups provide the ability for genealogists to get together, keep each other on track, work through concepts in a group discussion, and gain advanced knowledge.

- ◆ ProGen Study Groups – a 12-month online study program to encourage genealogists to understand and put into practice the principles in ***Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards***. Once accepted into the program your group works through the various chapters of the book, assignments and projects, and engages in group discussions and peer review. Each study group is mentored by a BCG Certified Genealogist and this program provides instruction on advanced genealogy skills as well as business practices and ethical considerations associated with a professional genealogy practice.

**As you can see, there is something here for everyone.** If I left off your favorite online learning resource, please send me an email at ([tessa.keough@one-name.org](mailto:tessa.keough@one-name.org)) or connect with me on Facebook (TessaKeough). Why not have some fun and learn something new.