

# Doncaster and District Family History Society Computer Group

## Snippets 23/07/2020

[https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/top-five-tips-for-using-newspapers-to-explore-the-history-of-your-area?  
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%7egopRqXqVn](https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/top-five-tips-for-using-newspapers-to-explore-the-history-of-your-area?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=buttonLink55&utm_campaign=Live+discussion+topics+for+the+FT+conference%20revealed%e2%80%a6&_ccCf=TA_X57iID_sNl2_FinijLhejFMsBykFA4uaUOFZVJCNGccDoHdDse%7egopRqXqVn)

## Top five tips for using newspapers to explore the history of your area

30 June 2020

Turn back the pages to the past and see how newspapers can help you work on your #StoryOfOurStreet project and learn about the history of your local area.

Local newspapers are a treasure trove information on the streets, shops and even local people of your area in times gone by. But with literally thousands of pages to explore, you might struggle to find what you're looking for.

These five tips will help you search with precision to explore the story of your street:

1. Remember that [street names may well have changed](#). Before diving into the online newspaper collections, be sure to track down a map of the area for the era you wish to search. The map will show you which street and place names you need to search on for a particular time period.
2. You can just search for a place or street name, or [combine your search with a specific event](#), for instance 'Corby AND Coronation'. Feeling brave? You could search on your street name, combined with terms that might reveal crimes and misdemeanours.
3. In addition to searching for a street name, perhaps expand your search to include the local area – to [gain a feel for the community](#) (the local market, shops,

entertainment and sporting fixtures) and to understand how national events affected it too (from the Coronation, to the world wars).

4. Remember that news was often reported far and wide, so expand your search [beyond the local county paper](#) (this can be particularly useful if the digitised collections for the area you're researching are a little lean).

5. Don't just search – [take the time to browse](#). Browsing through the pages of an old newspaper will give you hints and insights that you will never have thought to search for and give you a richer understanding of the area.

## The Latest Status Symbol Among the Ultrawealthy is a Coat of Arms, and It's Partially Thanks to Hit Shows Like 'Game of Thrones'

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 16, 2020](#) · [Heraldry](#) · [2 Comments](#)

Heraldic symbols have been a thing among nobility since the Middle Ages, with many existing coats of arms dating back centuries. But more wealthy people outside of Europe are now looking to create their own new coat of arms to put on yachts or personal stationery.



An article by Dominic-Madori Davis in the Business Insider web site describes the method of obtaining legitimate coats of arms that are personalized for you. These are not the fakes that you can purchase for a few dollars (or pounds or euros) from the “bucket shops” that deal in “The History of Your Family Name” that are for coats or arms that have nothing to do with your ancestors. Instead, these are legitimate coats of arms. See Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat\\_of\\_arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms) for an explanation of who can legally issue coats of arms.

Author Davis writes:

“The most consistent thing about wealthy people (and in particular, newly wealthy people) remains their tendency to want to be seen and recognized as such.

“Perhaps this is why, as Tom Ball of The Times UK reports, the demand for new coat of arms designs has skyrocketed in the past few years. Experts believe that the rising interest in obtaining a personalized heraldic symbol of one’s very own may have to do with the increasing popularity of genealogy tests, as well as dynasty-focused TV shows like “Game of Thrones,” Ball writes.

“Most of the new interest comes from wealthy people in America, the Middle East, and East Asia, according to design and printing company Downey. A representative for the company told Ball that its commissions for new coats of arms have doubled in the past five years, with international customers now making up 40% of commissions — up from 20% in the years prior.”

You can read more at <https://bit.ly/3eD9N9o>.

## Here’s Why You Should Use Google Duo for Your Video Calls Instead of Zoom

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 20, 2020](#) · [Off Topic, Software](#) · [6 Comments](#)



### Reasons:

Easier to use

More features

Much more secure (all communications use end-to-end encryption)

Higher quality connections

**Free** even for commercial use

## Downside:

Google Duo only supports calls with up to 12 participants (although that is enough for most uses other than online classes or seminars)

You can read more in an article by Taylor Kerns in the Android Police website at: <https://bit.ly/30rpICV>.

Google Duo for Windows, Macintosh, Chromebooks, Linux, and other operating systems may be launched at: <https://duo.google.com>. Even better, specialized apps for Google Duo use on Android devices or on iPhones/iPads/iPod touch devices may be found in the respective app stores for those systems.

# The Mask Wars of the 1918 Flu Pandemic versus Those of Today

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 20, 2020](#) · [Current Affairs](#) · [4 Comments](#)

“Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable.” — George S. Patton”

Our ancestors lived through the worldwide 1918 Flu Pandemic and found many similarities to today’s Covid-19 pandemic. The phrase “social distancing” didn’t exist in 1918 but everyone quickly learned to avoid the enclosed public spaces, such as churches and movie theaters.



THE 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT MARCHES THROUGH DOWNTOWN SEATTLE IN 1918, DONNED IN MASKS, ON THEIR WAY TO BE DEPLOYED IN FRANCE. (NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

In many ways, the 1918 Flu Pandemic was much worse than today's worldwide pandemic. For instance, in 1918 through 1920, it was not unusual for someone to wake up in the morning feeling normal, to begin to feel ill around 10 AM, and then to be dead by sundown.

In Seattle, during the influenza's lockdown period in October and November of 1918, people without masks were banned from public transit and ticketed or fined by members of the police's masked "Flu Squad." Headlines had a somewhat negative spin: "Thousands Are Hit with Flu Mask Order," shouted one in the Seattle Star.

You can read a lot more about the successes and of the (many) failures of actions by the people of 1918 in an article by Knute Berger and published in the Crosscut web site at <https://crosscut.com/2020/07/mask-wars-1918-flu-pandemic>.

## **Gedmatch is Investigating After Users' DNA Profile Data was Made Available to Police**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 20, 2020](#) · [Current Affairs, DNA](#) · [2 Comments](#)

From an article by Zack Whittaker in the [TechCrunch](#) website:



"Gedmatch, the DNA analysis site that police used to catch the so-called Golden State Killer, was pulled briefly offline on Sunday while its parent company investigated how its users' DNA profile data apparently became available to law enforcement searches.

"The site, which lets users upload their DNA profile data to trace their family tree and ancestors, rose to overnight fame in 2018 after law enforcement used the site to match the DNA from a serial murder suspect against the site's million-plus DNA profiles in the site's database without first telling the company.

"Gedmatch issued a privacy warning to its users and put in new controls to allow users to opt-in for their DNA to be included in police searches."

You can read more in the article by Zack Whittaker at: <https://techcrunch.com/2020/07/19/gedmatch-investigating-dna-profile-law-enforcement/>.

## Family Tree Maker Software Producer Exposes Data on 60,000 Users

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 21, 2020](#) · [Privacy](#) · [One Comment](#)

From an article by Phil Muncaster in the Info Security web site:

“A US tech company that manages popular family tree software has exposed tens of thousands of its users’ personal information online via a misconfigured cloud server, according to researchers.



“A team from WizCase led by Avishai Efrat discovered the unsecured Elasticsearch server leaking 25GB of data linked to users of the Family Tree Maker software.

“First released in 1989, it has had numerous corporate owners, including Broderbund, The Learning Company, Mattel and Ancestry.com, prior to Software MacKiev which is currently in charge of the code.

“WizCase informed the US software company of the incident and, although it didn’t receive a reply, the incident was apparently remediated shortly after.

“Among the details leaked to the public-facing internet were email addresses, geolocation data, IP addresses, system user IDs, support messages and technical details.”

You can read the full article at: <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/genealogy-software-maker-exposes/> and a different view on the problem may be found at <https://www.hackread.com/software-firm-leaks-ancestry-com-user-data/>.

# Security Alert: Malicious Phishing Attempt Detected, Possibly Connected to GEDmatch Breach

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 22, 2020](#) · [Scams](#) · [3 Comments](#)

A new scam has surfaced that is trying to trick genealogists and others into revealing their user name and password for MyHeritage.com. Luckily, knowing about the scam now will help you avoid it in the future. The scam is obvious if you know what to look for.

The following is a quote from the MyHeritage Blog:

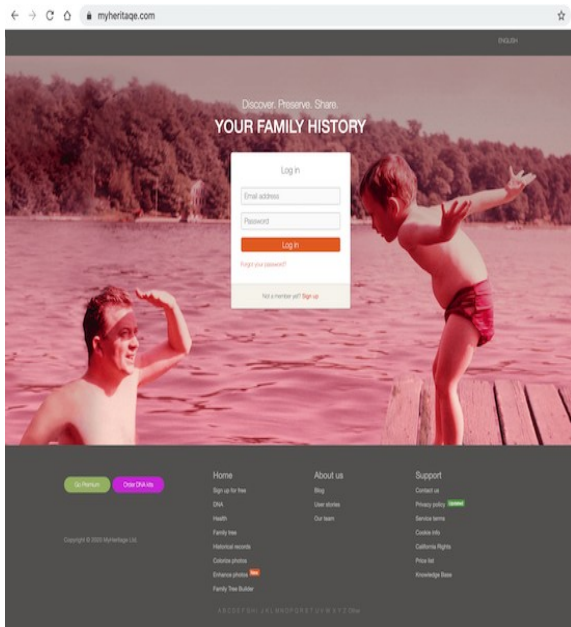
“We want to alert MyHeritage users about a malicious attempt to steal credentials that we identified several hours ago and is still ongoing.

“Perpetrators whose identity is unknown set up a fake website called myheritage.com (same as MyHeritage, but with the letter Q instead of the letter G). They started setting up this fake website yesterday, July 20, 2020 according to whois information, which is the date on which this domain was created and registered. They used an anonymity service to hide their identity. They exploited the fact that it’s hard to differentiate between the letters q and g, especially on mobile phones.

“We immediately reported this phishing website to GoDaddy.com to have its domain removed and GoDaddy.com are in the process of taking it down. We also reported it to Azure where it is hosted so they could remove it too.

“On the fake website, myheritaQe.com, the perpetrators set up a phishing login form to receive login information intended for MyHeritage and harvest the password. The website was made to look like part of the real MyHeritage.com homepage, with all the functionality not working except the fake login. It tries to impersonate the real website.

This is what the fake website looks like:



FAKE COPY OF THE MYHERITAGE HOME PAGE

“The perpetrators then started sending a phishing email to email addresses that they apparently compromised from GEDmatch. We don’t know if they emailed (or intend to email) all the users of GEDmatch or only those who uploaded DNA data to GEDmatch that originated from MyHeritage. What we found with all the users they did email, after speaking with these users, is that those users are all using GEDmatch. Because GEDmatch suffered a data breach two days ago, we suspect that this is how the perpetrators got their email addresses and names for this abuse.”

You can read more in the MyHeritage Blog at <https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/07/security-alert-malicious-phishing-attempt-detected-possibly-connected-to-gedmatch-breach/>

## Write a Future E-mail

[Dick Eastman](#) · [July 22, 2020](#) · [Off Topic](#) · [No Comments](#)

I have often wished that some of my ancestors had written a letter to their descendants. If I could go back in time, I would ask them to include stories about their lives, some of the major events of their time and, oh yes, information about their parents and grandparents. Of course, if it





was a worthwhile thought for my ancestors to write such messages, then I should do the same: write a letter for my descendants. One online site even simplifies the process.

[FutureMe.org](http://www.FutureMe.org) is designed to store e-mail messages and then send them at a future date that you specify. It probably is good for only a few years since you also specify the e-mail address that it is to be sent to. Who knows what the e-mail address will be for great-great-grandchildren? Or if old-fashioned e-mail will even exist in the twenty-second century?

This free service is best at sending e-mail reminders to yourself or messages to others within the next few years. I suspect it is an excellent tool for New Year's resolutions: write them down now and tell [FutureMe.org](http://www.FutureMe.org) to send them to you next December 31. That can serve as a check to see if you really lived up to your resolutions.

Of course, you can also send e-mails to other people in the future.

The free service is available at <http://www.FutureMe.org>. While it is a free service for everyone, donations are accepted.