

VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2023

The weekly meeting of the Vista Royale Computer Club opened with the usual welcome from the Secretary, Sandra McKenny, to new and returning members and announcements of the upcoming programs and other information for the week.

Sandy McKenny thanked Deidre McLoive for giving a hands-on iPhone class on Wednesday which had a 10 members participation. Because her schedule for the March has changed, she has offered to give another class if enough members are interested.

This is the address if you want to avail yourself of any of the RootsTech seminars which finished yesterday. You have to register with RootsTech and then you can access the free **recordings** from 2023 as well as previous years' speeches and classes. https://rootstech2023.mapyourshow.com/8_0/explore/session-gallery.cfm?

Steve Getz made a motion to remove the following names from our Wells Fargo checking account: James Iasimone and Michael Johnson. We also will add our new Vice President: Darryl Daniels and also the Vista Royale Association Treasurer of Record. It was seconded by Darryl Daniels. Unanimous voice Yes vote and the motion passed.

After the March 1, 2023 Vista Association board election and officers' election, we will make an appointment with the representative at Wells Fargo to update our checking account signatories. Mary Theiman, Sandra McKenny, Darryl Daniels and the Vista treasurer will need to be present at the bank for the process to work.

This week Vicky Getz showed everyone how to research their Genealogy on the Cheap with great sites and resources that have no cost.

GENEALOGY ON THE CHEAP You can drop a lot of money on this hobby, but you don't have to.

Organizational Tools

Boxes and notebooks

Personal digital organization methods

Specialized genealogy software

Online Tree (You can create a tree at Ancestry with a guest account.)

Roots Magic- individual software

There are many family tree type software packages for keeping track of your family records, Roots Magic has a version that you can use for free. <http://rootsmagic.com/> They make their money by selling you a key \$39 that unlocks the paid version. The paid version gives you reports, color coded family lines, the ability to tear off branches, copy branches to another tree, and live access to Ancestry, FamilySearch and My Heritage.

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) provides FamilySearch free of charge to everyone,

regardless of tradition, culture, or religious affiliation. Originally intended for Church members, FamilySearch resources help millions of people around the world discover their heritage and connect with family members.

FamilySearch and Ancestry both offer up many of the same records. Each service has records, that are only available at their site. FamilySearch has many records not included at Ancestry, so even if you have an Ancestry paid subscription you can benefit from a FamilySearch account.

Cost of FamilySearch - \$0, and they don't bother you nor sell your data!

Search Algorithm

Ancestry prioritizes records based on the records associated with trees.

If the trees involving your family are horrible your search results will be horrible too!

FamilySearch works with wild cards, while Ancestry never returns results when I use wild cards or the exact option.

On Line Trees

Although FamilySearch also allows you to create a tree, ANYONE can edit it, and I wouldn't recommend creating your tree at FamilySearch.

Ancestry allows you to create an online tree even if you don't have a paid subscription and there is no size limit or record limit on a guest tree. Ancestry Trees can only be edited by the tree owner or someone invited to participate by the owner. Ancestry Trees can be public or private, but if you are using the Library Edition of Ancestry, you'll want to make it public, for better search results.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES
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Indian River County Library includes home access to these genealogy sites with your library card:
Fold3, Heritage Quest, Newspapers (Basic), Newsbank

Indian River County Library also has Ancestry Library Edition available within the library as well as a great genealogy department with over 35,000 genealogy books.

Indian River County Library

<http://www.irclibrary.org/>

Click on Research

Click on Online Resources

Ancestry Library Edition

Usually not available outside the library, although they made an exception during the Covid lockdown.

Ancestry Library lets you download your discoveries or send your discoveries home via email.

Allows access to user created PUBLIC trees and user uploaded photos.

The Ancestry Library edition doesn't allow messaging, or user lookup, and can't attach records directly to your ancestry tree nor your offline tree.

LIBRARY FOLD3

Military records

Native American records

Non Military records – city directories and some newspapers

LIBRARY HERITAGEQUEST

HeritageQuest has a collection of Revolutionary War records, probate records, census records and historical books.

Not to be confused with MyHeritage a paid genealogy service.

Library EDITION OF NEWSPAPERS.COM BASIC

Search for articles, filtered by by location, dates, counties, newspaper titles. You can also browse (by Date), search for clippings other people have saved, and you can save a full page or a portion of the page.

Although a personal account allows for easier attachment to an Ancestry.com tree, the method you use with the library edition is the best practice for personal accounts as well, since Ancestry intentionally blurs content linked directly from Newspapers.

LIBRARY NEWSBANK

Collection of 2000 newspaper archives. Contents vary by location of the library. Sometimes you will be denied service if your computer is outside the library district's coverage area. Newsbank offers a large collection of obituaries. Most of the obituaries for the last two decades, but for some areas they have obituaries dating back to 1860.

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FREE ONLINE NEWSPAPERS
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Historical Newspapers are scattered all over the place, there is no central repository. Many small-town newspapers are not in any paid service, instead they are available through their local libraries, local private and state colleges, and government sites.

The smaller the town, the more likely the newspaper will have more information about your family, and the harder the newspaper is to find.

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VIRTUAL CEMETERIES
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There are lots of virtual cemetery sites. Most are ad supported. While you may be just looking for a headstone, you may find someone has posted the obituary, or a portrait of the deceased as well.

<https://www.vrcc.info/resources.html>
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15397664/mary-goodman>

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\$\$\$ SUBSCRIPTIONS \$\$\$
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Sometimes content is only available on sites that charge for the service.

Sometimes it is more convenient, requiring fewer clicks and less typing to accumulate your records with a paid subscription.

The reason I subscribe to Ancestry is the ability to message and collaborate with other people in my family lines.

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\$\$ SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES \$\$
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PERSONAL ANCESTRY ACCOUNTS

Convenient for sourcing your tree with a minimum of typing.

Allows you to initiate communications with other members.

Allows you to research from home on your PC, Mac, Tablet, Smartphone....

Typically goes on sale for . Sale price is not available for current subscribers.

Six Month Pay in Advance Plan SALE

A six-month World Explorer, monthly subscription plan with an ETF is \$32.99 or 197.94 for 6 months,

while the 6-month price on the Valentine's Day sale was \$99.

Beware of All Access Ancestry membership, sometimes it comes with Newspapers Basic, sometimes Newspapers Plus.

Only subscribe when the service is on sale.

Unsubscribe before your subscription auto renews at full price. Service will continue until your next billing date.

Your trees and sourcing will remain on the site, but you may not be able to see your records and images without re-subscribing. For that reason, I recommend making a copy of images on your local machine. Check to see if your subscription has actually been canceled, NewspaperArchive and Genealogy Bank are notorious for ignoring unsubscribe requests. Then wait for WIN-BACK pricing, which usually comes at all major retail sale holidays, Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Christmas. .

Newspapers Subscription Services

\$\$\$ Newspapers.com + or Publisher's Extra Version

\$\$\$ NewspaperArchives.com

\$\$\$ GenealogyBank.com

There is very little overlap in these services, check to see if your area is covered and time period is covered by the service BEFORE you subscribe.

Also:

Newspaper.com has 2 versions: basic and paid plus.

If you use Fold3 with your IRC Library card you have to try it 'twice' for it to work. If you use Heritage Quest' with your library card, you will want to go to the 'full database' for optimal use.

News Bank has obituaries as well.

Find a Grave also has memorials and links to other people.

You don't have to spend ANY money to get a good start on your genealogy research.

If you are not paying for a product you often are the product.

With genealogy, you can pay for the service and still be the product.

Next week, Vicky Getz will explain and demonstrate how to stream content to your TV..... a must attend.

Sandy McKenny, sec

EXTRA NOTES:

We have several **FREE** new ink cartridges for anyone who can use them; just ask one of the monitors for one. They are in a white plastic bag on the long table or pick up after the meeting. Here are the numbers to check your printer:

2 Cannon #245 black

1 HP 74 black

1 HP 92 black

3 934 XL black

From Vicky: per Sandy Adam's request for training on the AT&T TV Services

Training Materials from my first presentation on using the AT&T TV bulk service that Vista provides:

https://www.getzweb.net/vista/att/Using_AT&T_TV_Features.pdf

Written instructions on how to set up a recording on your TV with AT&T equipment:

<https://www.getzweb.net/vista/att/Scheduling-a-Recording.pdf>