



Willowtree Research Genealogy Services
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Look Into Lesser-Known Genealogy Apps & Sites
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WELCOME

We will LOOK INTO 4 categories of genealogy apps and sites that may be more unfamiliar to us.

- Online Archives
- Research Guidance / Citation Apps
- Free Compendium Sites
- Photo Apps

ONLINE ARCHIVES

Online archives can lead to unique and unexpected results.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

Website: <https://archive.org>

Internet Archive is a non-profit library with a mission to record all human knowledge on the internet and make it available free! They have BILLIONS of collections of all types – all digital and accessible. **Internet Archive is an amazing site for genealogists!**

Unfortunately, they have suffered a crypto-attack and are temporarily down as I'm updating this handout!

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/ddos-attack-takes-down-worlds-largest-digital-library-internet-archive/>

Hopefully, they will be back up soon. Here's some practical thoughts to explore on your own.

Navigate from the icons based on types of collections along the top menu. They call this the 'media nav.' Collections are divided into Web, Books, Video, Audio, Software, and Images. When you find something, you want to save or share that will go through your free account. This is your virtual library card.

Once you've registered, check out your own account by clicking your UserID in the top menu.

You CAN use the typical Google / Boolean search methods.

One of the most famous portions of their site is the Wayback Machine – preserving millions of past websites with digital content that has since been removed or is currently unavailable elsewhere. It spans a period of 24 years. It shows the actual code from the original webpage.

Can search within the Wayback Machine by URL or by a limited keyword search.

The search box in the top right corner searches ALL COLLECTIONS.

In the Books 'media nav' you can choose either Books to Borrow or Open Library. Remember to use the collection specific search box. Books can be borrowed for 1 hour or 14 days. You need a free account to borrow.

There is a Genealogy portal (direct link is <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>) in the FEATURED list under Books. Within that section you can search just Genealogy either by Meta-data OR by Text contents. This can be powerful! But wait! You can search by text contents of ALL BOOKS across the ENTIRE SITE by using the universal search box and clicking text contents. Once within a book you can search for other names or terms within that book's text. Try these techniques!

Another useful spot for family history is the Open Library section.

We ALL need to use Internet Archive MORE!

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

ARCHIVE GRID

About: <https://www.oclc.org/research/areas/research-collections/archivegrid.html>

Main website:

[https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?_gl=1*wsfcoj*_gcl_au*MTgyMDk0NTc0NTc0Ni4xNzI5MDE4MTcz](https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?_gl=1*wsfcoj*_gcl_au*MTgyMDk0NTc0Ni4xNzI5MDE4MTcz)

ArchiveGrid is a free online database, specializing in manuscript or other original documents all over the world. It represents over 7 million records from more than 1400 archival institutions.

ArchiveGrid is a part of WorldCat (OCLC). It won't show every archive, library, or museum in the world, only those who participate. It changes frequently and is updated quarterly.

Search is by keyword, which works best on organizations, places, events, occupations, etc. rather than specific family names. But go ahead and try surnames. Go further by thinking in terms of your ancestor's FAN Club! Try various search strategies. Try various spelling variations.

Most Google / Boolean terms will work.

How to search instructions: <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/help/>

Your results will be various collections in various locations who are participant entities. This is a library-oriented site, so it gives the shelf space needed plus finding aid types of information in the description. We are directed to how to find the particular record collection. Don't forget to look at the suggested additional groups or places in the lower right-hand column.

If you have many results, try the summary view (just below your search term) to narrow down to your most interesting results. This is a good way to filter your results.

A few might be digitized, but that is more unusual on this site. More likely you will need to submit a request OR go in person. For more specific information you can contact the archivist.

ArchiveGrid is a wonderful way to quickly overview a general topic or place for the more unusual types of records, collections, and manuscripts!

Use the map, zoom in or out, to see your possibilities, then research their details. This is also a good way to hunt for an archive to possibly donate your own materials!

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Website: <https://www.loc.gov>

The Library of Congress is a National Library, the People's Library; open to all. It began as a Legislative Library in 1800 but was burned during the War of 1812. The personal library of President Thomas Jefferson became the seed of the present-day Library of Congress – now the world's largest library! Their three main buildings are named for Adams, Jefferson, and Madison. Reading rooms onsite specialize in specific topics (such as Genealogy) or types of materials (such as Manuscripts, Photos, Maps, Microform, etc.). They have an unimaginable amount of material of all types! Their strengths for genealogy include newspapers, maps, photographs, published genealogies, local histories, city directories, manuscripts, and much more. Remember, they do not hold unpublished, original RECORDS (other than manuscripts).

They have an **Ask a Librarian** email access feature: <https://ask.loc.gov> with ready help in using the site or how to find what you are looking for!

They will assist but cannot do the research for us. They can scan things for us.

Check out their various Guides by subject areas (digitized and available on the website).

To search the **LOC catalog**,: <https://catalog.loc.gov>. Use the Browse search box and try the first SUBJECTS beginning with option, then add your surname and the word 'family.' Click the results link for a list view. Next, you may want to search a location (town or county, state) plus the word 'genealogy.' Try even more kinds of search and experiment.

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

Some items are available digitally, but MORE are only available onsite. To narrow down to only things you can see online, look at their **Digital Collections** website area: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>. Try **Chronicling America** for sure! Each digital collection is fully searchable by keywords, so try names, locations, occupations, businesses, etc. Also, don't forget to search the index pages of digital books just as if you have the book in your hand. Some of these are one-of-a-kind Rare Books or Special Collections items.

Chronicling America (a free portal), usually highlighted in the Featured Content section) –

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/about-this-collection/> This link leads to a massive historic newspapers collection, and can be searched by nearly anything! This is a full text search. If you can't find a newspaper for the area you want, or don't know what newspapers were in existence when your family was there – check the Directory for all newspapers known to be in existence! The Directory – <https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/?searchType=advanced> will also tell you where those newspapers are held (digitally or otherwise) and how to access them. Read the researcher's guide to the Directory to get you started – <https://guides.loc.gov/directory-of-us-newspapers> Take advantage of this incredible collection. The LOC has one of the largest newspaper collections in the world!

Many photographs have been digitized. An advantage for family historians is that there are MANY photos of specific military units.

While your exact family member may not be pictured, plenty of photos of life in a certain place and time can be found!

Don't forget the **Sanborn Maps collection** – priceless and available for free.

One benefit of coming in-person to the Library of Congress is the huge number of subscriptions (700 overall) you can access for free when you visit. Some of these ARE freely available from home, so check them out!

The Library of Congress is a treasure trove we do not want to ignore!

RESEARCH GUIDANCE / CITATION APPS

Next, we look at additional software that helps us create citations, identify and analyze information from our sources and guide our future research to fill in any gaps.

EVIDENTIA

Website: <https://evidentiasoftware.com>

Step by Step: <https://evidentiasoftware.com/evidentia-step-step-part-1/>

This is software you download to your computer. Nothing is stored in the cloud.

The Evidentia site offers plenty of User help: a User's Guide in PDF as well as various training videos. There are separate tracks for beginners as well as experienced Evidentia users.

It is a source-based app, where you enter in each document, photo, book or other source, then assign all the pieces of information to specific people. It works well to analyze all that you've found and reconcile conflicting evidence.

Many templates are available or you can create your own.

Report abilities are robust.

CLOOZ

Website: <https://clooz.com>

Clooz is another document-based software you can download. It has hundreds of templates to match the information you are finding. The newest version is Clooz 4, which sells for \$49.95 as a one time license purchase. This is not a subscription.

Like Evidentia, there are plentiful Videos and a User guide to get you going. They also have a FB group and an active online support through emails. They offer a unique way of working with friends, acquaintances and neighbors by linking up to five layers of people to each document!

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

It would be valuable for a specific research project to analyze all the information and then you can export EVERYTHING into your family tree program (RootsMagic, FTM, or other). This saves a great deal of re-typing! It is a strong feature that improves on Evidentia. Clooz is also strong in the report formats available.

FREE COMPENDIUM SITES

Compendium sites are clearing houses for records held elsewhere. These have the capacity to be tremendously helpful in our research!

LDSGENEALOGY.COM

Official website: <https://ldsgenealogy.com/>

Fairly new site. Not affiliated with FamilySearch even though the name includes LDS.

It is geared to be helpful to LDS members, but that doesn't mean it's not helpful to those of us who are non-LDS too! Here's how the site describes itself:

LDSGenealogy.com is a free website that is designed to help anyone quickly locate more record sources for U.S. ancestors. The site catalogs over 1,710 websites and archives so that rather than visiting all those websites individually, you can come to the [U.S. genealogy records directory](#) and find the record sources in one place. There are over 1.3 million record sources listed in the directory which are organized by state, county, city, and record type. The site also features dozens of [in-depth articles](#) to help you learn to do genealogy research more effectively.

Searching by location to start is probably best. From there you can search by type of record or another category.

Reminds me a little bit of the FamilySearch Wiki. Would need to use both more to see if they duplicate each other or complement each other. With either one, what I like is not having to perform a google search of my own but can skip that step and be directed straight to the records I need.

Don't forget the great articles on Brick Wall solutions by sharing case studies. Fascinating!

It will be interesting to see how this site develops.

LDSGenealogy.com also has a Blog – <https://ldsgenealogy.com/blog> . AND If you are interested in keeping track of new info about LDS Genealogy then you may want to subscribe to their Youtube channel - go to this site and click subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRY7wky9yKOWoGlz3R2EaFw>. Follow them on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/LDSGenealogy>

CYNDI'S LIST

Official website: <https://cyndislist.com>

This site is legendary in the genealogy world! And one of the longest running at over 25 years old!

However, it is not always the most intuitive site. To find things we must know what we are looking for. So, identifying your research QUESTION is important!

List of Lists. Something for everybody! Websites on any topic you can think of.

Cyndi's List has a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CyndisList> , a Pinterest presence - https://www.pinterest.com/cyndislist/_saved/ , and a blog – <https://cyndislist.blogspot.com> (where posts are searchable by categories).

The site is developing a new Mailing List. For more info: <https://cyndislist.com/maillinglist/>

Cyndi has a new Boutique store selling Cyndi's List merchandise: <https://www.cafepress.com/shop/CyndisList>

Cyndi's List describes itself as:

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

Welcome to Cyndi's List

Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 25 years. *Cyndi's List* is **free** for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

- What exactly is *Cyndi's List*?
 - A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
 - A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
 - A **free** jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.
 - A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.
 - Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

Location Search, again probably your best bet, is right on the homepage. Can also browse by other categories.

Read through the 'About Cyndi' and 'FAQs' tabs at the top. I found them fascinating!

You have two basic ways to SEARCH. The Search Cyndi's List box at the top left is the first way. It is "enhanced by Google" so does come up with some advertised sites at the top. Keep scrolling for the various hits directly on Cyndi's List.

The second way is to use the Categories tab at left. Then you can browse through whatever catches your interest. But beware of those dratted BSOs! If you get lost on your trail just hit the top left logo or the Home button to go back to the beginning.

The Categories are also listed by first letter groupings at the very bottom of the home page.

REPORT broken links right from the home page. Same to Submit a new link.

OTHER INTERESTING FREE SITES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | https://glorerecords.blm.gov |
| 2. DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION | https://www.DAR.org/national-society/genealogy |
| 3. DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA | https://DP.la |
| 4. ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION | https://www.StatueOfLiberty.org |
| 5. FACEBOOK SURNAME GROUPS OR PAGES | search for your surname of interest |
| 6. FULTON SEARCH | https://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html |
| 7. GENEALOGY CENTER, Fort Wayne, IN | https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy |
| 8. MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER, Independence, MO | https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy |
| 9. OBITUARY DAILY TIMES | http://sites.rootsweb.com/~obituary/ |
| 10. SOLDIERS & SAILORS DATABASE | https://www.NPS.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm |
| 11. SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION | https://SARPatriots.sar.org |
| 12. US GENWEB PROJECT | www.USGenWeb.org |
| 13. WORLD GENWEB PROJECT | https://www.worldgenweb.org |

PHOTO APPS

These help to organize &/or restore our family / genealogy photos.

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

PHOTOMYNE

Official website: <https://photomyne.com/>

Official YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCecU6umHbTT_6M3iT4NvC-Q

Photomyne makes it super simple to scan photos, slides or negatives with your phone. Even whole album pages which are then automatically separated into individual pics.

The current cost is \$14.99/month, or \$59.99/year or \$199.99 for 1-time purchase with no subscription.

Photos are auto-cropped and auto-enhanced.

You can scan the backs of photographs. You can add audio recordings. Like most other photo apps, you can add dates, locations, names, and captions, too.

Organizing into albums is simple. But you can also create slide shows or collages for special events.

Most of the tools through Photomyne are available for both IOS and Android. These include apps like Colorize, SlideScan, FilmBox, LifeShow, FamilyStars, and Photo Family Tree.

It is the Photomyne technology that MyHeritage uses for its photo-enhancing features.

Photomyne Basic is free but limited. The Photomyne main app is \$39.99. It looks like they formerly charged separately for additional apps but now all the apps seem to be included. The company also sells accessories for your scanning, like adjustable phone stand, phone mount, light pad, a photo shooting tent, and more.

Free app vs. paid account features		
	Paid account	Free app
Scanning, saving & sharing	Unlimited	Limited
Saved photo quality	Best	Good
Photo-to-PC transfer	✓	✗
Photo styling & enhancements	Unlimited	Limited
Photo backup	✓	✗
Multi-device access	✓	✗
Web access	✓	✗
Photo storage	Online, to free up space on your device	On your device

VIVID-PIX

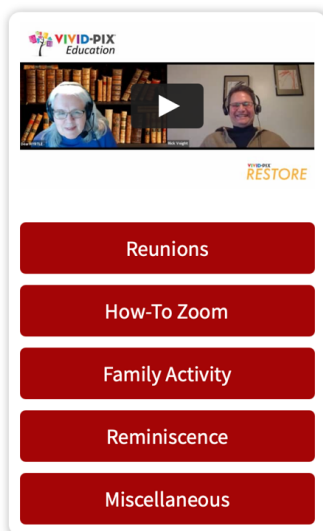
Official website: <https://www.vivid-pix.com>

Vivid-Pix is an exciting app, offering lots of helpful articles & videos on their blog. They are very invested in our genealogy world, exhibiting and sponsoring national conferences regularly.

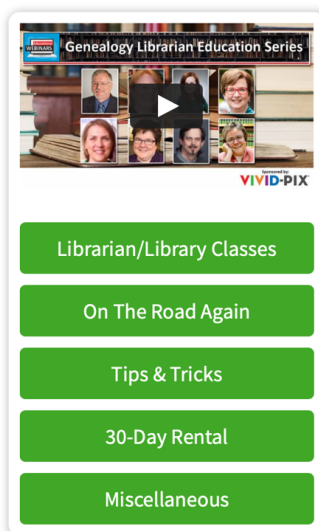
LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

Vivid-Pix Education

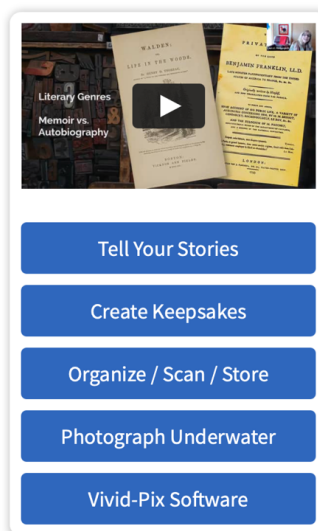
Gathering Traditions



Genealogy Education



How-To Classes



The Restore app works with scanned prints, slides, documents, and digital images. It is a \$49.99 one-time fee. Vivid-Pix works with artificial intelligence originally developed for underwater photography which then branched into genealogy once they understood the immense potential.

A new image is created without damaging your original.

Best of all, this technology works just as well with documents, faded newspapers, and more. I plan to try this out soon!

You can organize and create folders to your heart's content.

Connie Knox talks about their Memory Station along with the Restore software, which has intrigued me. Online the price is \$799.99 for the Home versions of Memory Station with the Restore software. The ScanSnap Scanner SV600 alone is \$599.99. You can use a scanner you already own and just purchase the other components for about \$430.

Do remember, MyHeritage gives you the option of using the Restore software for FREE, although you must go through the extra steps of uploading the photos to MyHeritage. If you have many photos or documents to process this would become very time-consuming and might be worth the price to work directly to and from your own computer.

GOOGLE PHOTOS & PHOTOSCAN

Official website: <https://www.google.com/photos/scan/>

Google Photos and Google PhotoScan are both completely **FREE**! The main problem is scanning quality. Also, Google Photos no longer offers unlimited storage for free. So, if you have a large collection, you'll pay a fee dependent on storage size.

PhotoScan may be adequate for family snapshots it would be adequate, but there are much better options for older family history photos. However, since Photomyne is expensive with all the bells and whistles, a free PhotoScan is better than nothing to digitize photos at risk of being lost.

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ONLINE ARCHIVES:

Internet Archive

How to Use the Internet Archive for Genealogy

(Family Tree Magazine 2022, 9 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ltc0EjzB5k>

How to Use the Internet Archive – this is informative!

(Internet Archive, 2022, 23 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCBY9z3f9Mw>

Internet Archive: 10 Amazing Genealogy Finds You Need!

(Lisa Louise Cooke, 2021, 54 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIjmUTZPrA>

ArchiveGrid

Tips for Using ArchiveGrid

(Gena Philibert-Ortega, 2021, 9 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPuL03Nm8wk&t=10s>

Unleashing the Power of ArchiveGrid for Genealogy Research

(Family History Fanatics, 2023, 11 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOOB0ZCnPig>

Library of Congress

Family Secrets: Navigating Unexpected Genealogical Finds

(Library of Congress, 2021, 46 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PRyt0DDz9M>

The Library of Congress: A Treasure for Genealogy

(BYU Library, 2023, 56 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDIHaVNiiJc>

National Archives

Chronicling America: A Quick Tour

(Family Tree Magazine, 2022, 7 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZd33xVUiQY>

Wayback Machine

How to Use the Wayback Machine

(Internet Archive, 2022, 21 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ts1tu1BiSuY>

RESEARCH GUIDANCE / CITATION APPS:

Evidentia

Can Evidentia Genealogy Software help me organize my research?

(Evidentia Software, 2020, 92min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-PEWKhMbUw>

Evidentia Demo Video

(Evidentia Software, 2022, 4 min)

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43y7Yesk6F8>

Evidentia for Beginners – playlist of 7 videos

(Evidentia Software, about 2020, < 70 min total)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chAsQYYm6tI&list=PLwBnEcrz7Sg979TmjruQrkce6ZSYQirRw>

How Does Evidentia Help Me Scrutinize My Genealogy Research?

(Evidentia Software, 2020, 2 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uf_OxZ4nXM4

Where Do I Start with Evidentia? Can I Export a GEDCOM?

(Evidentia Software, 2021, 35min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JZY7owg9Mg>

Clooz

Clooz by Ancestral Systems Playlist

(Ancestral Systems, unknown dates, variable times)

<https://www.youtube.com/@Clooz>

Getting Started with Clooz Video Series

(Clooz by Ancestral Systems, 2016, 3 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_h3kbo20j4w

Introduction to Clooz

(Clooz by Ancestral Systems, 2020, 3 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce0HMUXCFA0>

COMPENDIUM SITES:

General

30 Free Genealogy Websites Updated

(Genealogy TV, 2020, 30 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7LBSIB8cWE>

Find More Genealogy Records in Clearing Houses Online: Guest Diane Richard

(Linkpendium, Cindi's List, FamilySearch Wiki, Digital Public Library of America, WorldCat, and ArchiveGrid)

(Genealogy TV, 2020, 71 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwi-NU22iLQ&t=349s>

LDSGenealogy.com

How to Use the LDSGenealogy.com Website

(LDS Genealogy, 2021, 6 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2rd38uRw_Q

Cyndi's List

TCP 33 – Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi's List – Audio only podcast

(The Professional Genealogist Podcast, 2020, 59 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCSY_P0EtEs

Using Cyndi's List Efficiently

(Carly Morgan, 2021, 26 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3Bx_chu2Ns

LOOK INTO LESSER-KNOWN GENEALOGY APPS & SITES

PHOTO APPS:

Photomyne

How to Use Photomyne for Scanning & Saving Photo Memories

(Photomyne, 2023, 16 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa84SOMoc6Y>

Photomyne – full tutorial set

(Photomyne, 2021, 17 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDbosI2VuUw>

The Photomyne essentials course

(Photomyne, 2019, 23 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLXKjvmf5Zo>

Vivid-Pix

How to Use Vivid-Pix RESTORE Software – Full Tutorial

(Vivid-Pix, 2019, 4 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB7nwrTtY5g>

Restoring Old Family Photos – A Vivid-Pix Tutorial

(Lisa Lisson, 2019, 6 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yM-l0Pljg50>

Restoring Your Story with Vivid-Pix

(Allen County Public Library, 2020, 62min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN6brGvfcC8>

The Vivid-Pix Fix – Not Just for Photos!

(Lisa Lisson, 2020, 71 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN6brGvfcC8>

Vivid-Pix Scanner Tutorial

(Northland Public Library, 2023, 86 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUDUohTf5Xk>

Google Photos & PhotoScan

How to Use Google PhotoScan

(Cyber-Seniors, 2022, 15 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-_pO27f6eo

Need to Take a Photo without GLARE? Use FREE Google PhotoScan

(Aimee Cross – Genealogy Hints, 2023, 6 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQK5GoNnci8>

Organizing Old Photos with Google Photos

(dottotech, 2019, 15 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppleyVVC1_I