

**ChatLog**  
**06 March 2015 Genealogy Serendipity- Listening For Our Ancestors**

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Hello from Indianapolis. Two in one week....how terrific for us!

**A:** Hi!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Hellow from Ohio where it is 23 degrees.

**A:** Welcome!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Looking forward to this one here in St. Louis, MO!!! Also, better weather on the way...in the 50's and 60's the next few days!! YAY!! Cemetery researching weather!! :)

**A:** Sounds fantastic!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Hi from the UK. Looking forward to the webinar, Geoff, and to reading your book which I recently bought for my Kindle

**A:** Welcome UK! Glad to have you today!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** So excited for this webinar Geoff! I ordered your book a few days ago and you sent me the free ebook. I read it immediately! I couldn't put it down. You did an amazing job with it and I can hardly wait to get the book in print so I can share it with others! Thank you!!

**A:** Thanks! :)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** I so believe in genealogical serendipity

**A:** Awesome, me too!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Hi from Wilmington, DE

**A:** Hi Delaware!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Greetings from tiny Langdon, NH. Any syllabus for today?

**A:** Greetings! No syllabus today, just sit back and have fun.

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** One day at FHL in SLC, I was on my way out the door and said, okay - one more book. I found my grandmother's name in the index of a family history that had an unknown surname and Poof - 4 new generations!!!

**A:** Awesome!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Hello from sunny Tacoma, Washington. Read Geoff's book -- a great read.

**A:** Great, thanks! And hello!

**Audience Question:**

Q: Hello from Georgia

A: Hi!

**Audience Question:**

Q: a post looking for people with family deported to Moscow. I answered and the dates were wrong but asked if I had checked the Gedenkbuch. I went there and all the family came up with their destinations and death places. This was 6 weeks before she passed away!!

A: Wonderful serendipity!

**Audience Question:**

Q: I heard it as: A genealogist is one who disinters the dead and bores the living.

A: Funny!

**Audience Question:**

Q: NOBODY talks to ME in libraries! Wonderful!

A: Me neither. There's still time for both of us! :)

**Audience Question:**

Q: My genealogy serendipity experience was a live experience. Entering my workplace, I was told someone was waiting for me. I approached the woman, & identified myself. The woman said, 'did I know who she was'. I found myself saying, No, but I believe we are related.... & We are, she's my first cousin, who I'd only met once or twice as a young child.

A: Cool!

**Audience Question:**

Q: My first cousin 'found' me on Rootsweb within a few hours of my first post looking for my Terwilliger-Kuhn ancestors. He'd been lost to our family when his parents divorced and moved far away, changed names. He was thrilled, and so was I.

A: Wonderful!

**Audience Question:**

Q: I was looking for the burial place for the brother of my great-great-great grandfather on a bike ride one day. We ended up at a soccer field in town and had given up. BOTH my bike tires blew as we were leaving and I had to sit and wait for my husband to return with the truck. I later found out the cemetery was covered over and is under the soccer field! Definitely a "stop and listen" moment for sure!

A: oh wow! Chills!

**Audience Question:**

Q: One thing I love about listening to and watching Geoff is how emotional he gets over this stuff! I'm the same way and it's nice to see. :)

A: Yes, he truly loves genealogy!

**Audience Question:**

Q: my cousin was part of Future Farmers of America in MN. Went to West Berlin on a high school trip. When they checked in to a tiny place. The clerk said, OH, are you family for Mr Fahning? He's here from the East... She politely introduced herself, and they found they are cousins, separated by WWII. He

worked for US company, and eventually brought us an index card, provided by the Mayor of the town the family came from -- It recorded our family back to the 1400s, with photos of the original farm building!!

A: Love these stories!

Audience Question:

Q: I'm logged in at Legacy's website but don't see a syllabus button, is there a handout?

A: No syllabus for this webinar.

Audience Question:

Q: was working on a branch of the family tree and was frustrated in losing them once again, so just kicked the books off the bed and went to sleep, during the night heard my name being called, answered back, nothing, fell asleep again, woke up hearing my name, got out of bed and went to see who was calling me, everyone was asleep. went back to bed and once again my name is called but this time I also hear Hudson County New Jersey, went to FHL that day and found the family there

A: wonderful!

Audience Question:

Q: I just read an article in archaeology magazine that stated that Serendib was the Arabic name for Sri Lanka and that's where serendipity comes from

A: Interesting!

Audience Question:

Q: Deep breaths everyone, Geoff has us all welling up doesn't he?

A: Yes, makes you want to give him a hug, doesn't it?!

Audience Question:

Q: I understand the feelings of losing a father and mother. Times bring memories at the most unusual times. - Roger Whittier

A: very nice

Audience Question:

Q: Glad I have my box of tissues on my desk! I was very close to my grandma too, and totally get why Geoff's tearing up.

A: ...

Audience Question:

Q: I met live relatives in a cemetery one day .. while searching for my great great great grandmother.

A: Neat!

Audience Question:

Q: I think there are Browns in just about every cemetery :)

A: In New England - probably!

Audience Question:

Q: My dad called one day that my stepmother had passed away in the night. (It was not unexpected). I knew I needed something to keep my mind occupied but I didn't want to work, so I went to the library to follow up on some very bad research I'd done on Ancestry (I'd copied the passenger manifest page with the name on it, but not the ship, not the date, nothing. Dumb!). But once I nailed down the

passenger manifest I saw my hometown newspaper online and just put in my maiden name. There was a story where my dad's brother was usher at a wedding and who is the maid of honor? My stepmother. She was about 20, wearing a yellow dress with a juliet collar carrying a bouquet of daisies. It was clearly a message from my stepmother that she was in heaven on a beautiful spring day as a vibrant young woman on a happy day with daisies. She was telling me that everything was great. The most wonderful message!

A: What a wonderful story!

Audience Question:

Q: Geoff, I appreciate your encouragement today because we need to be attentive and thoughtful in remembering our family members. The bonds that we have for those that we knew or wish we had known are always there. "Missing someone is love that remains." This is the best part of research...stepping back from the usual paths we search and allowing those relatives to help us find them. It's all in the bond.

A: Indeed!

Audience Question:

Q: Before I went to a cemetery in Fall River (searching for one great-grandmother), I contacted the cemetery caretaker and sent him a list of ALL the relatives I was looking for. Not only did I find my father's paternal grandmother's site, but also his maternal grandmother's. And -- to top it off -- the caretaker greeted me with "Hi Cousin". Turns out he and I are second cousins.

A: Love it!

Audience Question:

Q: I'm helping one of my professors from 15 years ago, now that she's retired, and we've gotta a LOT of records entered. No relatives in this state that she knew of... I also volunteer entering data from the cemetery 1 mile from my house. Oddly enough, one day, I come across a link between her family, and my project. A huge break in a brick wall for her, as she thought the family had moved from Oregon to Arizona... but their son is buried 1 mile from me.

A: love all the connections!

Audience Question:

Q: A couple of years ago I was doing some reserach in Huron County, Ohio. I had contacted the courthouse several times to get records. This particular day I think they had gotten sick of me calling them. They told me that maybe I should contact a man who was a local historian and a former employee at the courthouse. They gave me his name and number. I wasn't going to call him. I didn't want to pay someone else to do my research. I thought I could do it myself. I had that number for three days. Everyday I just kept having the feeling I should call the number. Again, I didn't want to spend more money! After three days of having the name and number call to me, I finally picked up the phone and gave the man a call. I introduced myself to him and asked him what information he would like me to give him. He said, why don't we start with a name. So, I proceeded to tell him the name of my fourth great grandfather, Thomas Gurley...he then proceeded to finish my sentence for me by telling me exactly where ...

A: So glad you called!

Audience Question:

Q: they lived. I was shocked. His grandmother had lived nexted door to them and had lived to the ripe old age of 100. He had grown up hearing stories of the Gurley family who lived next door. I had

never before heard any stories of the family! If I hadn't been prompted to call that number, I wouldn't have heard any of these stories. It was an amazing story!!

A: such a great result

Audience Question:

Q: YIPPEE!!!! Here's to kids who get it!!!

A: If only every kid were that way!

Audience Question:

Q: I LOVE the passion that Geoff has for genealogy!

A: Yes :)

Audience Question:

Q: I took my son to the FHL a few weeks ago. I kept losing him and I would find him talking to the missionaries and asking them where to find certain things. He was hooked! He is now on a mission to figure out the brickwall of my 6th great grandfather, Isaac Hayes. He kept telling me...Mom, this sooo cool!!

A: :)

Audience Question:

Q: My 12 year old grandson is now interested in our genealogy. Out of 6 grandsons he's the only one. It's a miracle!!!

A: At least you have the one. That's wonderful.

Audience Question:

Q: Please do not cut a thing -- your genuine feelings are the essence of this presentation.

A: ...

Audience Question:

Q: Thank you to Geoff for sharing his most intimate experiences with genealogy!

A: Yes, thank you Geoff!

Audience Question:

Q: I agree. This is why we love Geoff. He shares the feelings most of us try to hide.

A: He's doing great!

Audience Question:

Q: I'm going to recommend my friends watch this webinar, then maybe they will understand why I am so passionate about Genealogy...my tears are flowing, too...

A: Exactly!

Audience Question:

Q: Amen. I often get emotional and tear up when I try to tell someone about a genealogy find that I never expected. They don't seem to "get it" - that I can be so touched about \*something from so long ago\*.

A: I think we can all understand these emotions. It's a genealogy thing.

Audience Question:

**Q:** Marian -- is this what Geoff's new book is all about?

**A:** Yes, you really get to know the personal side of Geoff in this book.

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** I, too, believe that we are called sometimes. In my early adult life I learned, for the first time, that my great grandfather had also come to Canada in 1892 and had lived just about 20 miles from where I grew up. He died before I was born BUT why had I not been told about him??? We are called I believe because when I found his birth record I found he was born on May 23, 1842 AND would you believe I was born May 1942!!!

**A:** Great story!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Two of my families were mentioned on back-to-back Genealogy Roadshows recently. Wow! Didn't learn anything new except that I am related to Emily Dickinson. But these ancestors may need more of my attention. What a way to attract it.

**A:** Very cool!

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** What an incredibly moving hour. I will never be the same. Thank you so much Geoff. And I will now pay more attention to the voice I keep hearing that says "find the stamp". I pray that some day I will know what that means

**A:** :)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Wow. Right before coming to the webinar I was looking at a facebook posting of The Tennant Lake Unit wildlife viewing area in Whatcom County 1 mile SE of Ferndale!!!!

**A:** so many coincidences!

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:13 PM: PDF Book: Kindred Voices by Geoff Rasmussen - <http://tinyurl.com/nz7xs82>

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Great job Marian. Thanks for passing along so many of these great comments

**A:** I have a great job :)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** I am not sure I believe in these things, but they keep happening to me. What I have to remember is to keep myself open while not jumping to conclusions. I am glad I signed up for today. Emotion is an important part of who we are. I've cried over tragedies in my ancestors' lives too. What would we be if we couldn't?

**A:** Exactly

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:15 PM: Legacy Family Tree Unlocked! by Geoff Rasmussen - <http://tinyurl.com/px23v7z>

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:16 PM: Legacy Family Tree software: <http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=1>

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:16 PM: Webinar Memberships: <http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/memberships-c11.php>

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** I believe that when we have the proper intentions - and do the work with all of our hearts, trying to accomplish a task or a job, sometimes we do all we can, fully intending to accomplish the task. But there comes a point where we feel like we've done all we can, and we stop, and breathe. And that's when "grace" steps in. Without ever "earning" it, we are "given" what we desire - as a beautiful gift. The answer comes. I've seen this happen over and over in my life, and as I watched my children grow. Some people would call us lucky, but that's not luck. That's "grace". Call it a gift from the universe, from the ancestors, or from a supreme spirit in which we believe. I call it "grace."

**A:** What a great way to look at it!

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:17 PM: 10% off coupon, valid at both [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com) AND [www.legacyfamilytreestore.com](http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com) through Tues, March 10: serendipity

**Marian Pierre-Louis (to All - Entire Audience):** 3:17 PM: Legacy QuickGuides: <http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/legacy-quickguides-c13.php>

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** What was Geoff's email address?

**A:** [Geoff@LegacyFamilyTree.com](mailto:Geoff@LegacyFamilyTree.com)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** [Geoff@GeoffRasmussen.com](mailto:Geoff@GeoffRasmussen.com)

**A:** Oops sorry guys didn't realize he gave out that one!! :)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** When I read the book I enjoyed learning the part about why "Mormons" are so very "into" genealogy. I had always wondered why. I'm glad he included that.

**A:** Yes, it's interesting for folks who aren't Mormon to learn why.

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** I had a strange feeling when I realized I had a nephew named Marvin Geoffrey Brown. To have these names all mentioned today touched me also.

**A:** :)

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** Although I'm not Mormon, I did volunteer at our local Family History Center until my back gave out (old age). And the first thing we were told was that the Center was for "family research" only and no one - whatever their religion - was to preach. And that policy helps researchers at the Centers.

**A:** That is true. No one will preach to you in a FamilySearch Center.

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** thanks for sharing The Mormom reason for doing Genealogy I have never heard the start to finish reason.

**A:** It's good that he explained it.

**Audience Question:**

**Q:** The Genealogy Happy Dance is always accompanied by Linus & Lucy (the snoopy theme from Charlie Brown). Well, it's also the music that a dear friend, a keyboardist, would play whenever I'd walk into the room. He passed away too young, but every time I hear that song, I tear up a little, and smile, (like Geoff was doing today.) It came on the radio right after I got the call that my friend had died far away.... then,

when I went back to Minnesota when my closest grandmother had passed ... while cleaning up her house, and I knew that my friend and my grandma were in the room, helping me to find the family papers.... and later that week, when I drove into Minneapolis to go to the airport, I had an extra hour to spare... the song came on, and I turned on a side road to wipe my tears --- and ended up in front of the cemetery where my friend had been laid to rest....I hadn't known where it was.

A: Wow!

Audience Question:

Q: We're a genealogy family, Geoff

A: :)