

# HERITAGE QUESTIONS

## From Hudson's Bay to Downton Abbey and Beyond:

Answers to questions you didn't know you had for researching your family history.

By Dee Haviland Fournier, Instructor,  
Heritage Quest Research Library

and

Dorothy Wilhelm, Humorist, Confused about her family

DuPont Museum & Historical Society  
**HUDSON BAY HERITAGE DAY**  
August 16, 2014

*You're Invited!*

**FREE CONCERTS**

- ❖ Noon - Toe tapping music from the Blackberry Bushes!
- ❖ 3:00 - Old time Fiddle Tunes by Sarah Comer!

**Tours -**

- DuPont Historical Museum
- Historic Home
- See Historic Dynamite Train

**Interactive Workshop:**

**From Hudson's Bay to Downton Abbey and Beyond!**

**9:00am to 3:00pm**

- **How do Social Media and DNA change family research?**
- **Where to look and what to avoid to simplify searches**
- **How do you find your lost relatives? Why would you want to?**

*Tips! Ideas! Fun!*

**Includes: Heritage Themed Lunch, Guest Speakers: Dee Haviland Fournier, Heritage Quest Research Library, Nancy Covert, Lakewood Author and Journalist, Dorothy Wilhelm, Generally Confused About Her Ancestors Ice Cream Social**

**\$10 donation to benefit the DuPont Historical Museum**

Follow up troubleshooting Workshop free to attendees.

DuPont Community Center  
303 Barksdale Ave  
DuPont, WA 98327

### 1- Clean Out Your Closets

**Dorothy:** I'd like to construct a good clear family history for my kids, but those ancestry websites can be overwhelming. Can't you give me an easy way to get started?

**Dee: Clean Out Your Closets!** Find your photo albums, birth certificates and other certificates, school records, address books, journals, diaries, Bibles. Now you're ready to begin.

**Dorothy:** I haven't cleaned my closets in years. What are the chances?

**Dee:** Gather up what you can. You'll be amazed at what turns up easily. Make a start. We'll go on from there.

And we'll meet you back here in a couple of days.

**Dorothy:** I'd like to construct a good clear family history for my kids, but those ancestry

websites can be overwhelming. Can't you give me an easy way to get started?

**Dee: Clean Out Your Closets!** Find your photo albums, birth certificates and other certificates, school records, address books, journals, diaries, Bibles. Now you're ready to begin.

**Dorothy:** I haven't cleaned my closets in years. What are the chances?

**Dee:** Gather up what you can. You'll be amazed at what turns up easily. Make a start.

## 2. Interviews

**Dorothy: So are we getting any closer** to finding out about our family heritage?

**Dee: Yes,** but it's important to be accurate.



**Dorothy: What I know is spotty.** For instance I

know my Grandma Franco very well. She came

from Italy to Homestead in Oregon. She baked forty loaves of bread a week in that outdoor oven in between running the ranch and giving birth to twelve children. She was somewhat slowed down in that process by the fact that my Grandpa developed sympathetic labor pains and was usually incapacitated when she went into labor.

**Dee: It sounds as if the facts** about them may be pretty easy to confirm.

**Dorothy: Yes, but I know almost nothing** about my father's side of the family. A friend did research says an ancestor was present at the signing of the Magna Carta but I'm skeptical.

**Dee: Let's take it one step at a time.** First lets get the facts down where we can work with them. You need to have everything right at

your finger tips and correctly recorded. There are good free forms on hand for you to use. My favorite sites are:

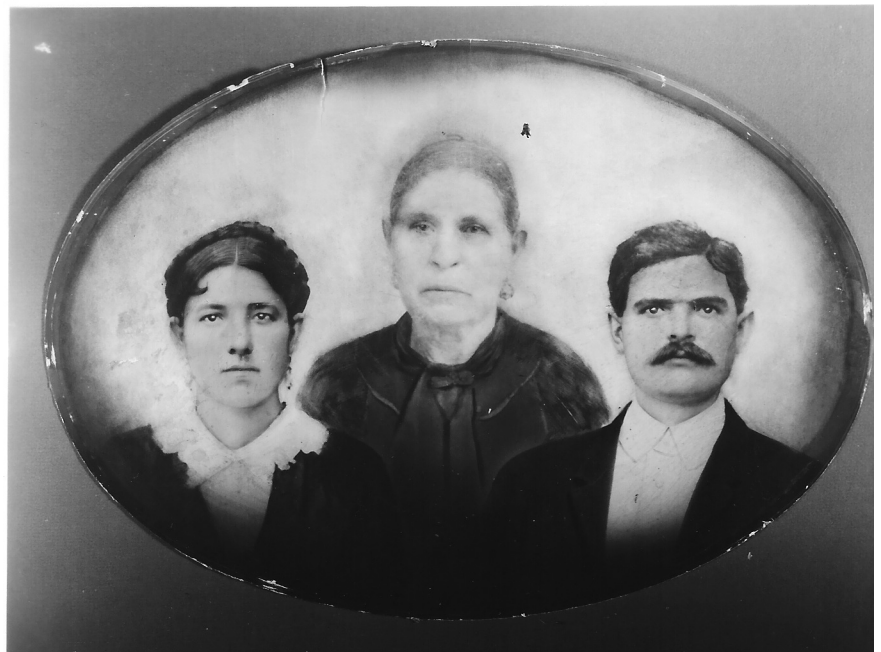
### **The Mid-Continent Public Library**

<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms> has a wonderful genealogy section and very good forms for record keeping and a family tree coloring sheet and child's family tree to keep the kids occupied.

Another good resource for forms is **Shoestring Genealogy**

<http://www.shoestringgenealogy.com/form.html>/ At that site, there are nearly two dozen forms for every purpose., including a handy birthdate calculator.

## 3 Talking About Precious Memories



**Dorothy: Dee, this picture is of my Great Grandma Carolina Franco.** She's shown here with a representative selection of her 24 children. She lived to be very old, but she didn't smile much, as you can see. What's my next step in researching her side of the family?

**Dee: Did you clean your closets,** as I suggested last time we got together, to look for certificates and clues?

**Dorothy: I'm not a fast cleaner.** But I've started, and we actually found an embroidered sampler Great Grandma Carolina made when she was fifteen. But a sampler can't be any help, can it?

**Dee: You'd be surprised.** We'll talk about that later but while you're waiting for the dust to settle, the next step would be to interview as many of the elder members of the family as are still surviving. I talk to many people who report feeling really bad that they didn't take this easy step. Believe me, your family members would be glad to hear from you. It's best to record the interviews, and now that we can use cam-corders or even phones, that's easy.

**Dorothy: I tried** that but folks seem to get self conscious and they won't talk.

**Dee: Just set the recorder out of sight** and forget about it. In the meantime, Ask specific questions - "What do you remember about the first day of school?" Ask about life events, like "What did your parents do?" "Who were you named after?"

**Dorothy: You know the awful thing is,** I am the oldest person left in my family. Maybe I'll call my daughter and see if she'd like to interview me!"

**Dee: It's really important to get those precious memories while you can.**

**Dorothy: I guess you wouldn't have to make a big deal of it.**

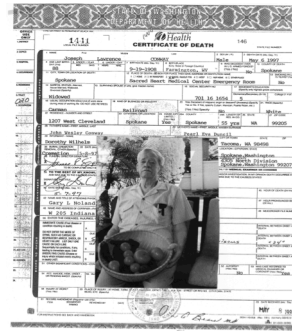
**Dee: Next, gather all of your materials together** and next time we'll talk about how to get the forms you need to record all of this information.

#### 4. *Why Am I Filling Out These Forms?*

***Dorothy: I've been collecting and downloading forms for two weeks now. I don't think I'm getting anywhere. Tell me again why you think it's important to go to all this trouble. You know, when I find***

*these people, it's a good chance I won't like them.*

**Dee:** It's like having your own history mystery program like History Detectives, but you get to be the star and solve the mystery.



**Dorothy:** It's time to fill out the forms we downloaded. I know there will be more rules.

**Dee:** Well yes – two more important ones.

**1. Always work from the Known to the Unknown.** Start with facts like death and birth certificates.

**2. Always cite where your information came from.** Such as, with your father's death certificate – The citation will be, WA St Dept of Health, Certificate of Death, State File Number 146, local file number 1411.

**Dorothy – We can find out other things** than just where and when and how death occurred.

**Dee – Yes. Be sure to note who the informant** – the person who gave the information for the certificate was – and then other information. This certificate gives place of birth, name of father, and maiden name of mother, and it gives your father's occupation.

**Dorothy – I just noticed that I was the informant on that certificate.** That certainly lowers the level of confidence.

**Dee – Adventure – think adventure!**

## **5. START A FAMILY STORY JOURNAL – RIGHT NOW!**

**Dorothy:** My mother didn't own a bathing suit in the hot August Days of 1928. Actually, at the age of twelve, she didn't own much. What clothes she had were hand me downs or made by her mother out of printed flour sacks. A lot of people were in the same situation and like them she was pretty stoic, but on this day it was hot as only the Umpqua Valley of Oregon can be. She watched the throng of kids swimming in the river and she had to – she just HAD to – join them.

An idea formed in her mind. Her younger brother Peter had been swimming all morning. Surely he needed to come out. The girl who would be my mom tiptoed through the thick mud to the edge of the River. "Oh, Peter," she called, "and when Pete climbed out of the water she begged him to lend her his suit. These were the days when men's suits had complete tops much like women's suits. She begged, and pleaded. "Only for five minutes. I'll bring it right back." Finally she was forced to fall back on a choice bit of sibling blackmail, "Well, otherwise, I'll tell Mom . . ." it was a simple question of filling in the blank. Finally Pete reluctantly handed over his suit. "Just five minutes," he warned. Jessie put on the suit, promised fervently to come back – and disappeared for the day, leaving poor Pete crouched among the poison ivy leaves to be eaten alive by mosquitoes. Jessie had a wonderful time.

**Dee:** **That's a good story.** Have you written it down?

**Dorothy:** **Well, no.**

**Dee:** **Your family story journal is an important part of your history research work.** It's often overlooked because people think in terms of "just the facts" but actually those stories that you remember or have heard can tell a lot about who you really are. Don't make a big production. Just jot stories down as you remember them.

**Dorothy:** **You could use your phone, to dictate or send ideas back.** I carry file cards in a case in my purse. I've always got them and you only have to jot down a line or two.

**Dee:** **In our next installment,** we'll cover how to search census forms and Bible records. You'll speed the search if you enlarge and print those census forms from the internet so you can read easily and take advantage of information available. Remember that each census asked different questions so what you can find is different.

**Dorothy:** **I can hardly wait.** It reminds me of the time that Jim Johnson . .

**Dee:** **Shhhhh. Write it down, Dorothy. Write it down.**

Plan to join Dee and Dorothy on August 16 at "From Hudson's Bay to Downton Abbey and Beyond" family heritage workshop in a benefit for the DuPont Historical Museum. You may even win a copy of Dee Fournier's new book, *Stepping Stones to Genealogy*. Probably not, but you never know. Details at [www.itsnevertoolate.com](http://www.itsnevertoolate.com). With questions, email [Dorothy@itsnevertoolate.com](mailto:Dorothy@itsnevertoolate.com)

---

FROM HUDSON'S BAY TO DOWNTON ABBEY AND BEYOND  
REGISTRATION

AUGUST 16, 2014 9:00 TO 3:30

Full Name

Street Address

City and Zip

Phone number

Email.....

Area of research interest:.....

\$10 donation covers lunch, handouts, and ice cream social. Send check for Ten Dollars to DuPont Historical Museum, 207 Barksdale Avenue DuPont, WA 98327 Register online: [www.itsnevertoolate.com](http://www.itsnevertoolate.com) Event info: 253-582-4565