We are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Genealogy Gems app. We blazed a new trail back in 2010 when we launched the app – apps were still really new back then. I loved the idea of having a way to deliver exclusive bonus content to you as well as the audio, the show notes and best of all an easy way for you to contact me and the show.

It’s more popular than ever, and as far as I know we are still the only genealogy podcast app available. If you haven’t already downloaded it just search for Genealogy Gems in Google Play or Apple’s App Store, or get the right app for your phone or tablet here.

In this episode I have two interviews for you on very different subjects. First up will be a follow up to last month’s episode where we focused specifically on the New York Public Library Photographers’ Identities Catalog.

Well, in this episode we’re going to talk to the genealogy reference librarian at the New York Public Library, Andy McCarthy. And as you’ll hear, there are a massive amount of resource available there for genealogists everywhere.

Then we’ll switch gears to Scandinavian genealogy with David Fryxell, author of the new book The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

The free podcast is sponsored by RootsMagic
GEM: The New York Public Library’s Milstein Division of United States History, Local History & Genealogy with Reference Librarian Andy McCarthy.

The NYPL is one of the largest public genealogical collections in the country. They have a “wide-angle” approach to providing reference materials for local and US History.

The Top Resources at The New York Public Library

#1 The reference librarians.
Email them at history@nypl.org Ask questions, prepare for your visit.

#2 The online catalog: https://catalog.nypl.org/
While they subscribe to many genealogy databases, they don’t host many. Use the catalog to determine what’s available, and what to ask for. See if what you’re looking for exists. Pay close attention to subject headings to identify resources.

#3 The Digital Collections
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/
- City Directory Collection up to 1933.
- Manhattan is the largest and is coming soon. This collection was only available previously on microfilm. It is a browse-only collection (not keyword searchable)
- The 1940 Phone Directory is online.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map collection is digitized and online.
- The Map Wharper which is a crowd-sourcing project providing for historic map overlays, and super zooming in views. http://maps.nypl.org/warper/

Offline Materials
They also have a massive collection available in house of books, pamphlets, newspapers, etc. There are research and photo copying services available.

#4 Research Guides online
https://www.nypl.org/collections/nypl-recommendations/guides

Before you go:
- Definitely reach out before you go.
- Provide them with specific questions and they can help you identify what to focus on while you’re there.
- Visit the Milstein home page. They also have many public classes. Check to see what will be available during your visit.

One of Andy’s Favorites Collections
The Photographic Views of NYC Collection. Arranged by cross streets
GEM: Scandinavian Research with Author David Fryxell

David A. Fryxell is the author of the book The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

https://amzn.to/35ql3S8

David is an award-winning author, editor, speaker and publishing consultant. He founded Family Tree Magazine, the nation’s leading genealogy publication. As a writing expert, he wrote the Nonfiction column for Writer’s Digest magazine for more than a decade and served as director of the famous Maui Writer’s Retreat. He has authored countless articles for Family Tree Magazine, and is also the author of additional books including Good Old Days, My Ass https://amzn.to/2s39d2J and MicroHistory: Ideas and inventions that made the modern world https://amzn.to/2sWWclf

Here’s a brief outline of my Q&A with David Fryxell on his new book and Scandinavian genealogy research:

Question:

To understand the ties between the Scandinavian countries, and why countries like Finland and Iceland aren’t included, we have to learn about the cultures and languages, right?

Answer:

Scandinavian countries are really tied by language. And at one point all the countries were united. Borders change. The records reflect these various changes.

Question:

What’s the timeline of Scandinavian immigration?

Answer:

The First Wave, 1825–1860

The Second Wave, 1865–1880

The Third Wave, 1880–1924
Question:
What value do you think DNA testing provides, and what should we keep in mind if we do test?

Answer:
DNA results are most helpful to find other relatives who may be able to assist in your research.

Question:
Let’s say we know we’ve identified the ancestor who immigrated. What else do we need to know before we can jump the pond and start digging into Scandinavian records?

Answer:
In the case of Scandinavian ancestors, you may not have to find the U.S. passenger records. They have excellent passenger departure records.

Question:
Tell us about the census in Scandinavia. Is it consistent among all three countries?

Answer:
Norway and Denmark have good census records. You can find them at:

- FamilySearch.org
- MyHeritage.com
- and Digital Archive Norway [https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/](https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/)

They are increasingly searchable, and much like our census records in the U.S.

Sweden doesn’t really have useful census records. But they have Household Inventory records in church books. They were recorded every year. Turn to websites such as ArchivDigital [https://www.arkivdigital.net/](https://www.arkivdigital.net/), and Ancestry.com [https://prf.hn/click/camref:1011l4xQe](https://prf.hn/click/camref:1011l4xQe)

Question:
Let’s dig into the records. Where do you recommend we start?

Answer:
Church records are key. (Vital Records, census, vaccination, etc.) Also Military, Land and Tax.

Question:
I love that chapter 16 is called *What to do when you get stuck!* Give us an example of a common area where researchers get stuck and one of your favorite strategies for unsticking them.

Answer:

- Get familiar with and pay close attention to patronymic naming conventions where a man’s name is typically based on the given name of their father.
- Look closely!
Challenge your assumptions!

More Resources from David Fryxell: https://vikinggenealogy.com

Protect Your Precious Genealogy Data
Don’t wait another day. Get the computer backup that I use:
www.backblaze.com/Lisa

Profile America: First Radio Broadcast

Monday, January 13th. Today is the anniversary of the first radio broadcast to the public. It took place 110 years ago in New York City, engineered by Lee deForest, a radio pioneer and inventor of the electron tube.

The 1910 broadcast wasn’t made from a purpose-built radio studio, but from the Metropolitan Opera house. DeForest broadcast the voices of Enrico Caruso and other opera singers. A small but impressed audience throughout the city gathered around special receivers to listen with headphones.

Today, 95 percent of American households have at least one radio. One-hundred ten years after deForest’s lonely effort, some 5,400 radio stations employ about 92,000 people.

Sources:
First broadcast, accessed 9/10/2019
Receivers, accessed 9/10/2019
Households with radios, accessed 9/10/2019
Radio broadcasting establishments, County Business Patterns, NAICS 51511
Courtesy of Census.gov.

MyHeritage LIVE conference
I’ll be speaking at this conference in Tel Aviv, Israel on October 25 & 26, 2020. Read more here.
RootsTech 2020

I’ll be presenting 4 sessions and look forward to visiting with you at the Genealogy Gems booth at the front of the exhibit hall. Get all the details here.

Read our latest articles at Genealogy Gems:

- 5 Steps to Digitizing Your Old Negatives
- How to Find and Browse Unindexed Records at Ancestry – The Better Browsing Checklist
- Best Strategies: How to Find Church Marriage Records

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