



## November Newsletter

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# *A Legacy of* CHOICES

Which flavour will you choose?

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Have you ever counted your daily decisions? Research suggests we make over 35,000 choices every day—from what coffee to drink, which flavour of macaron to eat, to life-altering crossroads. Each decision, from small preferences to major life paths, leaves an impact—not just on our lives but on the generations that follow.

October brought this decision-making reality into a sharper focus for me. I voted for the political party I thought would best govern my state for the next four years and, on a lighter note, selected a new lawn tractor for our 1.5 acres. Each choice, big or small, shapes our lives and influences those around us, even if we don't see the effects immediately (well, except for lawn mowing).


Elections especially remind us of the power and impact of choice. How did our ancestors' decisions influence us today, and how can we, as family historians, uncover those legacies in ways that go beyond the expected family story? At Family History Academy, we're passionate about helping you delve deeper because every choice, every discovery, is part of a much larger narrative we're privileged to explore together.

As we near the end of the year, let's think about our daily choices—decisions that might influence the legacies we leave behind. The insights we gain, the stories we preserve, and the techniques we perfect are not just for ourselves; they're part of a collective legacy for tomorrow's generation.

*Cathie*

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## Coming Up



**IMMERSIVE  
DNA CASE STUDIES  
WORKSHOP**

*Solve Your Family History Mysteries!*

Whether it's unknown parentage, adoption, or other ancestral puzzles, this immersive 3-part DNA workshop, with Michelle Leonard, is your chance to master DNA research techniques!

14, 21, 26 November 2024

Family History Academy [www.familyhistory.academy](http://www.familyhistory.academy) More Information:

Ready to become a DNA detective? Join renowned genetic genealogist **Michelle Leonard** for an exclusive three-part workshop that transforms complex DNA mysteries into solved family stories. Whether you're untangling unknown parentage cases or confirming family connections, Michelle's hands-on approach shows you exactly how to break through those stubborn brick walls.

Through real case studies of increasing complexity, you'll learn:

- Professional techniques for evaluating DNA evidence
- Proven strategies to identify and interpret DNA matches
- Step-by-step methods to solve family mysteries.

This intensive 6-hour workshop is your chance to learn from someone who has cracked hundreds of DNA cases. Don't miss this final opportunity of 2024 to elevate your genetic genealogy skills!

**Dates:**

14, 21 & 26 November US, Canada, UK

15, 22 & 27 November AUS & NZ

REGISTER NOW

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## In the News

### AI and the Hype

We know that every week (every day!) brings announcements about AI, new products, and claims that stretch our imagination. But with so much noise, distinguishing fact from hype can be challenging. Enter the [AI Hype Index \(MIT Technology Review\)](#) — a clear, concise snapshot of what's really happening in the world of AI.

### The end of passwords?

With the rise of passcodes, we're finally [saying goodbye to complex, hard-to-remember passwords](#)—or are we? Are you like me and find yourself sifting through password managers, scribbled notes, or even that secret spreadsheet where you've stashed endless logins?

Now, passcodes aim to simplify things, but the question remains: are they actually easier to remember? For many of us, adapting to a new system of security codes, especially across multiple accounts, means our trusty storage methods are far from obsolete.

## **New Records**

In October, FamilySearch added millions of new records to its free online archives, including:

- Over 2 million census records from Luxembourg
- 895,000 census and civil registrations from the Philippines
- 242,000 church records from Russia
- 300,000 civil registrations from Hungary
- 134,000 cemetery records from Chile
- 236,000 parish and civil registrations from France
- Over 2 million census records from Luxembourg.

## **Sorting DNA Matches in Ancestry**

Ancestry's latest update to ProTools brings a highly anticipated feature—sorting DNA matches! You can now reorder your shared matches based on their shared cM with each other, not just your own shared cM with each match. This gives you a clearer view of connections within your matches.

# **2025 Sneak Peek**

*Join Us!*




# Sneak Peek

2025 courses, workshops and more!



Family History Academy

@familyhistory.academy

## More to Come... !

The final stretch of the year is always busy for me, but this time it's more exciting than ever! As I map out the 2025 lineup of courses and workshops, I'm also thinking about ways to make Family History Academy's fifth year extra special. I have a few surprises in store to celebrate YOU, the amazing community of family historians who've been so supportive every step of the way—stay tuned for what's to come!

## November 2024 Newsletter

### Family History Academy

Capalaba, QLD Australia



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