Three Steps Forward, Ten Steps Back:
Using Modern Tools to Identify Contemporary Family and Locate New Ancestral Connections

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This session will explore databases on Archives.com, including the Living Person Search, to help you trace your family forward.

Why Trace a Family Forward?
• Planning family reunions
• Reuniting photos & keepsakes
• Find cousins to collaborate on research and extend your research back!

Tools We Can Use
• Census
• Newspapers
• Living Person Search

Why a Living Person Search Is Better Than the Phone Book
• The Living Person Search gets its data from a wide variety of sources, so it will include people who no longer have a land-line phone.
• It gives more information than the phone book. This can include age, associated people, and former residences.
• It covers a span of time, rather than just one date.
• All of this makes it easier to determine if you found the person you're looking for, rather than someone who happens to have the same name.

How to Get Better Results
• Remember associated people, including spouses, children, and others who might have lived with the person.
• Remember birth dates. Most of the results in the Living Person Search will list the person's current age.
• Try to have a good idea of residence. You're more likely to find the right person if you have at least a general idea in which state the person is living (or used to live).