Lassie! I’ve run into a brick wall… I can’t go on… Lassie, go for help!

**Work Journal**

Timmy got himself into trouble again Sunday night at 7 pm. He’s so regular, I can just about set my little doggy watch by him. This job could get pretty boring. Fortunately, it stays interesting because there are so many great places I can go for help.

(I think my life would make a great TV series.)

**Week 79: Genealogy Bulletin Boards**

This week I decided to go to [forums.familysearch.org](http://forums.familysearch.org) to get Timmy some help. I like it because I can post questions in all the areas of Timmy’s research: Western states, New England, and Germany, to name a few. I can also post questions about genealogy software and other genealogy stuff. While sometimes someone posts an answer within hours, it usually takes a day or two. (Sometimes I don’t mind the time away from Timmy, if you know what I mean.)

Once in a while I see a question that I asked when I was a pup. I pass on an answer that a knowledgeable person gave to me. I don’t understand those that respond as though I’m some sort of hero. Don’t they know that the real hero was the person that helped me?

Other genealogy bulletin boards exist, like [boards.ancestry.com](http://boards.ancestry.com).

**Week 80: Genealogy Encyclopedias**

I may be a pedigreed pooch, but I am not above consulting an encyclopedia. I have three in my browser favorites. Collies aren’t known for our typing skills and getting all the dots and slashes in the right places can be difficult for anyone. The three are [wiki.familysearch.org](http://wiki.familysearch.org), [ancestry.com/wiki](http://ancestry.com/wiki), and [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org), the grand sire of them all.

On the FamilySearch Research Wiki I searched for “South Dakota death records” (Timmy’s emergency of the week). The wiki displayed a list of articles, the best guesses the computer could make about my topic. The right choice seemed to be “South Dakota Vital Records.” I wasn’t surprised that the article contained many links to more information. That’s common in Internet encyclopedias.

**Week 81: Family History Centers**

I often go to our local FamilySearch center (also called family history centers). Staff members are friendly and eager to help. I have learned the specialties of each staff member and I knew one could help with this week’s emergency.

The first time I went, I found the center by going to [library.familysearch.org](http://library.familysearch.org) and searching for the name of my city.
Week 82: FamilySearch Support
Timmy got lost searching historical records on FamilySearch.org and sent me for help. Support is available 24x7 in all major languages. I couldn’t remember their toll-free phone number so I went to contact.familysearch.org. Only then did I remember they don’t speak Collie. I could have sent an email to support@familysearch.org, but Timmy couldn’t wait. I dialed the number and handed him the phone.

Week 83: Training Courses
Timmy thought the best way to learn German handwriting was to dive right in. I knew otherwise, but when did he ever obey my warnings. He was immediately in over his head and needed help. I found the ideal training courses for Timmy in FamilySearch’s “Reading Handwritten Records” series.

Some online courses are simple, like watching a video. Others are almost like having your own, personal instructor. To find this FamilySearch course, I started at FamilySearch.org, clicked Learn, and then View the Courses. The right-hand sidebar contained a list of courses. I clicked the handwriting series, and then scrolled down until I found the German Kurrent lessons.

Week 84: Genealogy Societies
I got lucky this week. Our local genealogical society had a class on the exact topic Timmy needed. I attend every chance I get and always learn something. It’s great to get out and rub shoulders with others that appreciate a fine pedigree (although they give me weird looks when my pedigree uses a different term for “mother”).

One excellent list of genealogical societies in your area can be found at www.fgs.org, the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Click on “FGS Members” to see the list.

Wrap Up
Lassie! You’ve brought help! Good girl.
You are such a smart dog. You always find the exact help I need. How do you do it?
You’re my hero, Lassie.