

# 4

## Search Tips

## P.A.S.S. Stats



Newsletter  
Design  
by  
Capital Letters

## Search Tips

Missing Pieces recently queried several search and support lists to ask subscribers to suggest websites they have found useful in the course of their search activities. Below are URLs of sites they recommended:

**Kelly Hager** recommends:

<http://www.peopledata.com/>

She calls the site “seriously awesome. You enter a name and state (or all states) and it will give you addresses and phone numbers (unless number is unlisted). Some have birth dates with the name. It will also (usually) say when the address was registered.”

**Mary Ann Surette**, on another list recommended:

[www.ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com](http://www.ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com)

Surette describes the social security index of deaths as having a “neat search capability where you can provide parameters.”

[www.peoplefinders.com](http://www.peoplefinders.com)

“which can even locate a person, given only first name and a birth date—a long process,” she says, “but you can even obtain a birthdate by trying many.”

[www.zabasearch.com](http://www.zabasearch.com)

This site gives addresses associated with a given name.

**Lisa Kay** recommends:

[www.Spock.com](http://www.Spock.com) “where they list the year and city of birth” when you search on a name. It does not always have this information but it is a social networking site so many people you find listed provide information that will allow you to contact them.

*The following site is not free:*

[www.adoptionsearching.com](http://www.adoptionsearching.com)

Surette says it's the best source for current and even 1980/1990 records of SOME people throughout USA. David T. Gray keeps up this great data base (used to be free). You can also search births by birthday.”

*The editor needs a volunteer to write the search tips for the next issue.*

## Transracial Adoption

John Raible Online is the blog of an adult biracial adoptee. You may have seen John in the film “Struggle for Identity: Issues in Transracial Adoption.” John’s blog gives readers his unique perspective on transracial adoption (and adoption more generally), as one of the older “guinea pigs” (his term) of the transracial adoption experiment from the 1960s. John Raible Online provides free information and education on the issues of race and adoption faced by members of transracial families.

<http://johnraible.wordpress.com/>

## ISO CLASSIFIEDS

### Adoptees-in-Search

**7-24-1969**

Female adoptee (BC) born DC ISO birth family. Reply to [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

**5-18-1972**

Male adoptee born RI ISO birthfamily. Reply to [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

**01-29-1979**

Female adoptee born Silver Spring, MD ISO birth relatives. Reply to [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

**8-2-1980**

Female adoptee born in Salisbury, MD is searching for birth mother, birth father and maternal grandmother. Please reply to [kimberlie\\_h@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlie_h@hotmail.com).

### Birth Parents-in-Search

**3-24-1963**

B'mom ISO son born Williamsport PA. Please reply to [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

**4-13-1972**

B'mom ISO son born RI. Please reply to [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

**10-5-1974**

Birthmother ISO Baby Girl born Joanne Michelle in Port Jefferson, N.Y. Reply to: [editor@dmv.com](mailto:editor@dmv.com).

### Is someone looking for you?

**P.A.S.S. Stats**

Found since March 2006  
1 adoptee, 1 birth parent



Adoption reform activists have long labored for changes in adoption law among them recognizing the rights of adult adoptees to their own records.

A groundbreaking study released last fall by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute concluded that states should open adoption records to adult adoptees.

Our own Ann Wilmer was part of the research group that contributed to the production of *For The Records: Restoring A Legal Right For Adult Adoptees*, a comprehensive analysis of the policy of sealed adoption records.

History reveals that closed records are a recent development which began in the 1930s but picked up speed after World War II. Two states, Alaska and Kansas, never closed records. Since 1996, six others—Alabama, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Tennessee—have re-established access for adult adoptees. “Open access” laws are currently under consideration by legislatures in Connecticut, Ohio, Michigan and Missouri.

## Whither Reform: After Donaldson Report

In December, adoption reform activists from across the nation met in New York City at a meeting convened by the Donaldson organization. Two of our members, Elaine Harrington and Elaine Patterson helped to make it possible for Ann Wilmer to attend the roundtable discussion of strategies for translating the report into real change by providing “Mom-sitting” services.

Efforts to make changes have frequently met with legislative opposition because of erroneous perceptions about birth parent privacy. The group discussed ways to reshape the dialogue.

Senator Paula Benoit, an adoptee, who recently shepherded open records legislation through the Maine legislature said that when explaining the issue to legislators, pointing out that “it’s about original identity” was something they understood

To successfully reshape the dialogue, activists must divorce the concept of birth records from birth parents. They are the individual’s records, not something that belongs to anyone else.

Another argument that reformers face is the suggestion that access changes the rules mid-game. The rules have already been changed mid-game, we are only asking to go back to the original rules. All states in the U.S.A. arranged



# Missing Pieces

Volume 1

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Number 2

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**News from Post Adoption Search & Support of Delmarva**



## Missing Pieces

News from Post Adoption Search & Support of Delmarva

## Things to do, places to go!

<b>March 30</b>	<b>Party: P.A.S.S. of Delmarva is 2 years old!</b> Wicomico County Free Library 2-4 p.m. Meeting Room 1
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Monthly search &amp; support meeting</b> Wicomico County Free Library 2-4 p.m. Meeting Room 4
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Monthly search &amp; support meeting</b> Wicomico County Free Library 2-4- p.m. Meeting Room 4
<b>June 29</b>	<b>Monthly search &amp; support meeting</b> Wicomico County Free Library 2-4- p.m. Meeting Room 4

## News & Announcements

**H**appy Birthday to Post Adoption Search & Support of Delmarva. Members will celebrate our second birthday in March!

Founded by local triad members, P.A.S.S. of Delmarva provides assistance to peers as they address adoption-related feelings and issues, not limited to, but certainly highlighted by, searching for birth relatives.

If you have searched for birth relatives, you have almost certainly experienced the gamut of emotions from exhilaration to despair. Maybe you would like to talk about it.

We have a couple of searches that we are working on together at present. If you have search skills, come and help us. If you need help, let us know.

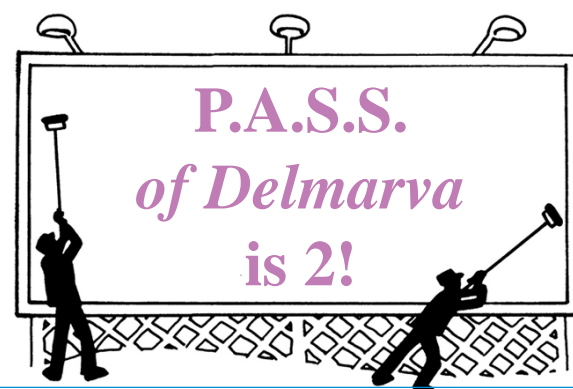
We meet most months on the last Sunday of the month at the Wicomico Public Library — dates are adjusted to avoid holiday conflicts. To be reminded of meetings and notified of other events, simply join our listserv on Yahoo.

**Would you like to join?**

**Come to our next meeting and introduce yourself.**

**For more information, call:  
Chris: 410-820-4798  
or Ann: 410-752-2456**

Prospective members are always welcome. And if you know of someone who needs a search & support group, come and bring him/her or provide us with contact information and we will issue an invitation.



### Missing Pieces

News from Post Adoption Search & Support of Delmarva

## Adoption and family secrets

**W**hy is adoption filled with secrets? In his book, “Family Matters: Secrecy And Disclosure In The History Of Adoption,” E. Wayne Carp describes how adoption came to be so secretive, and how it is returning to an open approach.

A history professor, Carp bases his book on extensive research, including an unprecedented look at the cases of the Children’s Home Society of Washington (CHSW). Spanning nearly a decade, these files offer a unique view of the history of sealed records.

### Family Matters Secrecy and Disclosure In the History of Adoption E. Wayne Carp

For the sealing of records is relatively recent. As long as humans have existed, so has adoption. In the U.S. it has had many forms, including the orphan trains of the 1800s and foundling homes of the Great Depression. But until World War II, records were available.

“[S]ocial workers assumed that natural parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents would return... whether out of natural curiosity, as a matter of right, or from psychological need... [they] exhorted their colleagues to collect every piece of information.”

The concern about “confidentiality” arose from the desire to conceal details, not from participants, but from the public. The shame heaped upon unwed mothers and their illegitimate offspring, combined with a lack of standards, led to this attempt to safeguard adoption.

But after World War II, records became sealed even to participants. For the next generation, “[s]trong demand by childless

couples for adopted children, an increase in the number of children available for adoption... and more liberal attitudes on race transformed the field of adoption.”

“The distinction between confidentiality and secrecy is crucial to understanding why natural parents and adult adoptees have been refused access... [Those] who had the power to provide or deny access to adoption records acted from numerous intentions, including a desire to defend the adoptive process, protect the privacy of unwed mothers, increase their own influence and power, and bolster social work professionalism.”

With the other civil rights movements came the adoptee rights movement. Frustrated by sealed records, adult adoptees, birth relatives, and others joined together to effect change. Reaction to Watergate turned the tide, until by the 1980s both open records and open adoption began to emerge.

Today, adoption remains in question. “Will the standoff between the advocates of openness in adoption and their opponents ever be resolved? Will triad members ever be permitted unlimited access to their adoption records? Will open adoption replace traditional adoption?”

A fascinating read, “Family Matters” provides vital context for anyone wishing to understand how secrecy has infiltrated adoption.

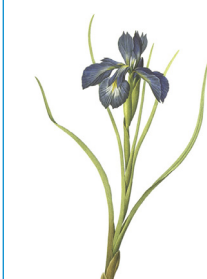
*Triona Guidry*

Family Matters: Secrecy And Disclosure In The History Of Adoption  
Author: E. Wayne Carp  
Publisher: Harvard University Press  
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*Triona Guidry is a freelance writer based in Chicago. She can be reached at [triona@trionaguidry.com](mailto:triona@trionaguidry.com).*

*Get well wishes to our friend, Linda J.*



### Missing Pieces

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