



The President's Notes

February 2017

February 21 Presentation: *Religious Records*

Meghan Phillips from the Lancaster Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, will discuss how to locate older church records. This library is a repository for Congregational and United Church of Christ records, many from older and sometimes extinct, churches in the U.S. These can be a treasure trove, so come and hear how you might find some ancestral church records.

January 17 Presentation: *Genealogy-a New Year's Resolution*

George Nettleton gave pointers for beginning genealogists, suggest ideas and sites for intermediate genealogists and also suggestions for the advanced genealogist. A 22 page handout of the ideas and includes lists of genealogy software programs, U.S. genealogy libraries, websites and an good beginning bibliography of sources. If you'd like a .pdf copy (in 2 parts), send an email to george@nettletons.net (if you don't have email, call him at 397-0439).

January 31 Activities & Clubs EXPO was well attended and we received one new member application. A number of people stopped by and Wayne Barner did searches for some and displayed his genealogy program to others.

By-Laws Attached are the proposed new By-Laws for the Willow Valley Genealogy Club. The Board has spent innumerable hours "renovating" the By-Laws and we now look to you to review them, critique them and, hopefully, vote them effective at the March meeting.

While there are many subtle changes/modifications, here is the obvious one: We changed the last meeting of the year to May, and there are 2 new committees (Programs-a Board position; and Audit-non-Board position).

Rationale:

With Camp Willow and the involvement of many of our members, it was decided not to meet in June. We, the members, voted to cancel the June meeting last year, and we've now made the change permanent.

The Board agreed the full At-Large Committee did not need to be on the Board; having a Chairperson represent the Committee would be sufficient. It is standard practice in most groups, that a Chairman heads a committee and represents that committee on the Board.

We also agreed to redefine the role of the In the past, the At-Large Committee which ahas been e developing presentations and enlisting speakers for our General Meetings. Thus it was decided to create a Programs Director/Committee. We then clearly defined the At-Large role.

It was also felt, we should have an audit of our finances, so the Audit Committee was created.

Please read over these new By-Laws and bring your opinions to our March meeting. If you have specific concerns/questions before then, please do not hesitate to contact me (george@nettletons.net, 397-0439).

Genealogy magazines

As we've mentioned the Club has subscribed to genealogy magazines for the 4 main campus libraries: Family Tree Magazine (North & Lakes), Your Genealogy (Manor) and Internet Genealogy (Spring Run). The Manor copy seems to disappear right after it is put out-if you see it anyplace, please return it to the Manor Library shelves. The Lakes copy has yet to arrive, but we'll keep you abreast of when it does. Check them out, enjoy them, and let other residents know about them.

Newsletter will be coming next month, so there will be no *Notes* in March. Carolyn Bausinger does a great job with that, so be on the lookout for it.

Suggestions:

This might be a great time to back up your genealogy files-or actually, all your files. We, here in Willow Valley, recently experienced a few power outages, and while most of us probably didn't lose any files, that should be a warning, that backing up might be a good idea in case we should lose some files either to a power outage or a worn out computer/storage device.

Already updated? How about going through those piles of photos and starting to organize, label and weed them. Every one is another your descendants won't need to wonder about.

[Genealogy Gophers](#) has 80,000 free digitized genealogy books. You can search by an ancestor's name, dates and place to see excerpts from books which you can download if you so decide. It might support facts you have or might open new information on your ancestors. Give it a try and let me know how helpful it was for you.

Top 100 Genealogy Websites for 2016 which is attached, might be of interest and might open some new avenues for you to search.

George Nettleton, President, Willow Valley Genealogy Club
February 12, 2017