

Willow Valley

GENEALOGY CLUB



Spring 2017

Mennonite Family History Conference

New Arrivals in a New Land: A Tribute to our 1717 Immigrant Families

The thirty-eighth Mennonite Family History Conference is scheduled for May 18-20, 2017. The focus this year is on the three ships of Palatine emigrants who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in May, 1717, beginning a journey that would change their lives forever. Most of these intrepid settlers found homes among earlier immigrant relatives and like-minded Swiss-German Mennonites in what is now Lancaster County. Today, their descendants number in the millions.

The keynote address will be given by John L. Ruth, a noted historian, author, and speaker, who has made significant contributions to the understanding of Mennonite history, faith and culture over several decades.

The full program includes opportunities to participate in lectures, seminars, round table discussions, field trips to local historical sites, opportunities to take part in a discussion of DNA, to work in the Lancaster County Archives, to meet with experts for special project research assistance, and much more. There is still ample time to register for the conference, but you should be aware that some workshops are limited in size, and “first come” is the byword.

For a complete list of conference speakers, topics, and other activities — and to register for any part or all of the 2017 conference — please visit:

<http://www.lmhs.org/events/history-conference/>

March Meeting — Hands-on Workshop: Online Research Techniques for Amateur Genealogists

Tuesday, March 21 at 2:00pm

Speaker: Gerald Wilson; *Retired police officer and experienced genealogy practitioner*



More and more records become available online every single day. Locating those records without having to travel or write to busy state or county offices represents a huge savings in both time and research costs. What records might you be able to find for your family—and how do you locate them? This workshop will teach you online research techniques, so be sure to bring a laptop, iPad, cell phone or other portable computer. If you do not have a laptop or other portable device, you will want to share one with another member to get the most out of this program.



Willow Valley Genealogy Club

www.genealogyclubwv.com

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Programs ahead in Spring 2017...

April:

Late 18th Century Immigration to America

Speaker: Professor Ted Pearson

Department of History, Franklin & Marshall College

Large numbers of immigrants came to the United States after the American Revolution. What countries did they leave and why?



What were their expectations and what were the realities of life in a new country? Come and learn more about the causes and effects of immigration to America during period of 1790-1849.

May:

PA Inheritance Laws and Estates

Speaker: Jim Landis

LancasterHistory.org

Understanding estate records is a fundamental cornerstone to discovering your ancestry. Knowing what happened to ancestors' property after they died can reveal new generations and can connect you to new relatives.



This program examines the basic legal procedure for the settling an estate, as well as the numerous important papers generated through this process. What you uncover about your family's history through these valuable documents might surprise everyone.



Meet the "We're Related" App

Ready for some genealogy fun? If you have a copy of your family tree online with ancestry.com, then you will enjoy trying the new We're Related app by Ancestry. The app—available on the Apple App Store and for Google Play—allows Ancestry's computers to connect your family tree to thousands of others and find distant relatives going back generations. Are you related to your co-worker or to someone famous? We're Related can show you more possibilities than you ever imagined. Just remember—the relationship to someone famous isn't true unless your own research proves that it is. But it certainly is fun entertainment!

From the President's Laptop

As genealogists, we sometimes stumble on that “diamond in the rough”—a family diary, a trove of family letters, an autobiography or something else which sheds light on the “person” instead of just the branch on the tree.

Unfortunately, we often are happy to enjoy it and that's it. But wait! Why not create our own treasure for a future generation: begin a diary, jot down some snippets of remembrances, annotate some photographs with the story around the photo, or scan some of the memorabilia you may have and put it in some semblance of order?

Just this past week, I read the autobiography of one of our Spring Run residents. He wasn't head of a company, or an army or a nation; he wasn't even a movie or recording star, nor a sports star. He had a life which might be called “normal.” Maybe yours is like that.

Would you be willing to share an autobiography, scrapbook, notebook of memories, or just 1 story or photograph which might be interesting to your children (or your spouse or grand children)? This could be a round table discussion or possibly a slide show of photos or memories we could share.

Do you have a photo of yourself or family member (living or past) which might have an event or experience tied to it, making it more than just a photo? While a picture is worth 1,000 words, sometimes a few words would enhance the photo to 10,000 words (or keep it from being trashed when they're handed down to the next generation).



I know a number of people who have a variety of “non-tree” material which could be shared. They're each different: a photo scrapbook, a memorabilia scrapbook, photo thoughts, a family history, an autobiography and a book of short memory “squibs.” Maybe discussing and displaying them at a meeting could give you or others an idea which they could easily construct for themselves.

Let me know if you think you'd like to participate in such a share time and whether it's something you might be interested in. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this site.

George Nettleton, President

Warning — Protect your personal information

Have you seen an ad for a free genealogy resource, FamilyTreeNow.com? Unlike reputable websites that allow you to create a family tree but protect all personal information about the living, this site provides an unacceptable amount of information about you and your family members.

There are many “people search” sites and data brokers out there, like Spokeo, or Intelius, that also know a lot about you. This is not news, at least for the Internet-literate. And the information on FamilyTreeNow comes largely from the public records and other legally accessible sources that those other data brokers use. What makes FamilyTreeNow stand out on the creepy scale, though, is how easy the site makes it for anyone to access that information all at once, and free.

Every address where you are known to have lived, the names of your immediate family members, phone numbers, your age, and much more is available to anyone — unless you act to opt out of their data base. Considering the rising number of identity theft incidents, any of this information could cause a problem for you or other family members.

You are encouraged to opt out of this data base of information. To do so, you will need to visit:

<http://www.familytreenow.com/optout>

and follow the onscreen steps listed. Please note that if you have multiple listings, as many people do, you will need to delete each one separately.

From The Ancestry Insider Blog **17 Years of Research Being Flushed Down the Toilet**

Monday, March 6, 2017

One of my #RootsTech reports drew this comment from a reader:

Dear Ancestry Insider

The last paragraph on data innovation really struck home with me. I am 68 years old and have 5 family trees with the largest one having over 90,800 names, 15,400 obits, and numerous wedding announcements and anniversaries, etc. No one in my family has any interest in genealogy. I can see my 17 years of research being “flushed down the toilet” when I am incapable of maintaining my trees. I have basically quit my research because it seems pointless.

Couldn't FamilySearch create something so trees on programs such as Legacy could be donated to them so that if, in the future, they have a use for that data it is there and hasn't been destroyed?

I would gladly pay for a website that allowed my tree to be updated and stored online with sharing opportunities. I have an Ancestry tree but find their program not well thought out and pretty much useless for maintaining an online tree.

Signed,
Tom Blanchard

The Ancestry Insider's Response

FamilySearch

FamilySearch does, indeed, accept tree donations. And it is free. It is not an online tree management program like Ancestry Member Trees. It is merely a repository to preserve and share your life's work.

1. Export a copy of your tree from Legacy as a GEDCOM.
2. Go to FamilySearch.org.
3. Select Free Account in the upper-right corner and create an account. Or if you already have an account, sign in.
4. Select Search > Genealogies.
5. Scroll to the bottom.
6. Underneath “Contribute Your Research to the FamilySearch Community,” select Submit Tree.
7. Follow the instructions to add your tree.



The Ancestry Insider
@AncestryInsider

You will be given the opportunity to synch your tree with Family Tree. That step is unnecessary. I don't know how long it takes to appear, but when others go to Search > Genealogies and search for a person in your tree, they will see results from your tree along with the other contributed trees.

Over the months and years, as you update your Legacy tree, upload it again, following the instructions to replace the last version uploaded.

GEDCOM does not support scanned images, so if you use this method to preserve your tree, it will not preserve your scanned images. FamilySearch provides a service for preserving those images, but you must manually upload each image. Legacy says that until FamilySearch allows them to interface with the memories system, Legacy is unable to build that function into their software.

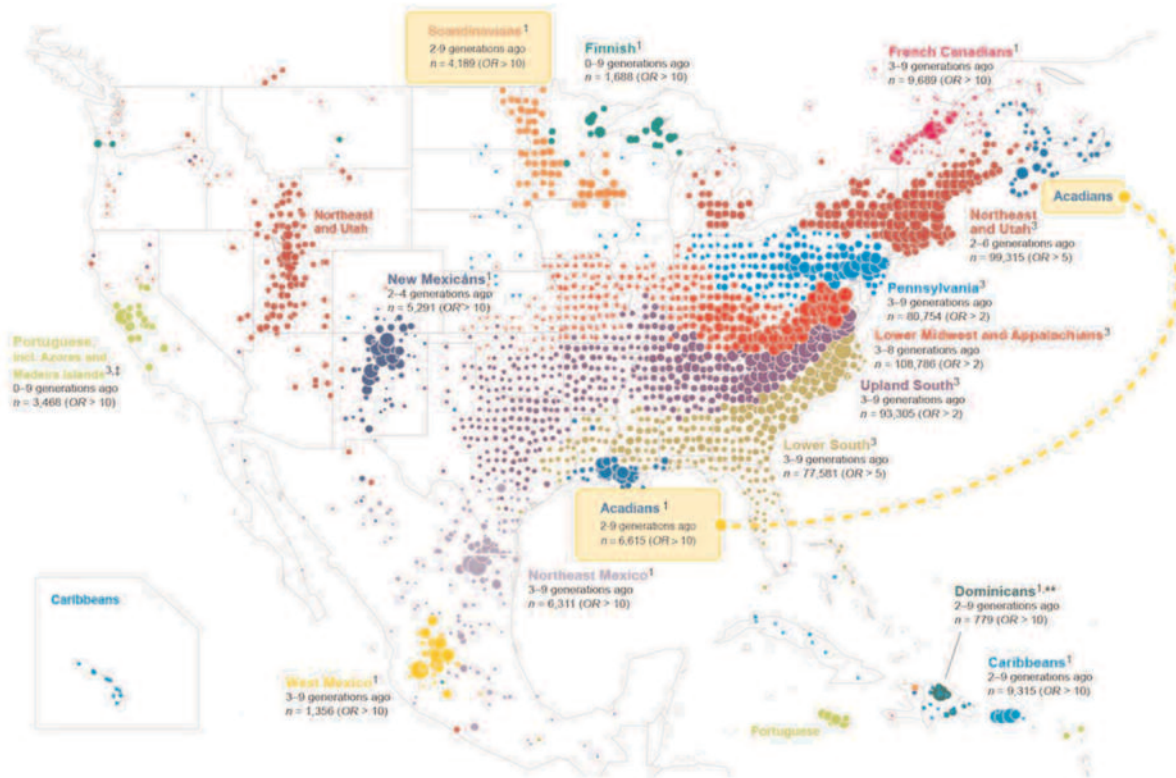
Ancestry

You mention you don't like Ancestry Member Trees. You can still use it as a place to store preservation copies of your tree. It reaches a different audience than FamilySearch. No one but paying Ancestry subscribers can see your tree. Ancestry

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Migration Patterns based on DNA results

Condensed from an Ancestry.com online article



What do you do with three-quarters of a million tubes of saliva collected from Ancestry.com's DNA customers? Ancestry scientists decided to create a ground-breaking map of America's history-based diversity using the genetic data from the analysis of the samples. This unique map shows this country's great migrations, the echoes of our pioneer ancestors in our genes today.

What The Map Reveals

Each color on the map represents a present-day community of individuals tied together through their genetics. And the location of the dots show where each community's ancestors lived over generations. But what exactly does the map show?

People moved primarily east to west, less so from north to south. See how the differently colored clusters form distinct horizontal bands? The red, blue, purple, and green dots fan out from right to left. This pattern means DNA confirms the descendants of immigrants to the East Coast moved westward.

While people certainly moved back and forth from the north to south as well, if people had moved in the same

volume from north to south, you'd see the bands fanning downward and not just from east to west. Instead you can see powerful forces pushed people westward, even showing that the Mason-Dixon line separates some of the clusters.

In addition, you can also see distinct communities of immigrants and their descendants. Among these:

- Acadians fled Canada for Louisiana: On the map you see the same community in Canada and Louisiana – the Acadians. It's genetic evidence of the migration triggered by the expulsion of Acadians from Canada by the British in the 18th century. They took refuge in Louisiana.
- Scandinavians settled in the Midwest: Scandinavians appear in the orange colored clusters in the Midwest. See how the dots are most prevalent in Minnesota and the Dakotas? This migration is well-documented through historical and even census records.

What Could This Mean to You?

As Ancestry's research continues, your DNA could tell you where some of your ancestors lived, where they moved, and the larger historical forces that propelled them from Europe or other continents and across America.

Visiting the Daughters of the American Revolution Library



Since its founding in 1896, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library at 1776 D St., NW, in Washington, DC, has grown into a huge, specialized collection of American genealogical and historical manuscripts and publications, as well as powerful on-site databases. This library is available to anyone for research; it is free and has been open to the public since shortly after 1900. You can learn more about the DAR Library on their website: <http://www.dar.org/library>

About the Library:

Today, the Mission of the DAR Library is to support and enhance the DAR membership application process and to acquire and preserve historical materials related to genealogical research. While this includes primarily American genealogical research, especially records related to the American Revolutionary War period, the colonial era and the nineteenth century receive detailed coverage as well. This focus has made the DAR Library one of the nation's premier genealogical research centers based on the uniqueness of its resources. Approximately 3,000 new titles enter the Library each year, many of which are works printed in limited quantities.

The DAR Library collection contains over 225,000 books, 10,000 research files, thousands of manuscript items, and special collections of African American, Native American,

and women's history, genealogy, and culture. Approximately 3,000 new titles enter the Library each year, many of which are works printed in limited quantities. In addition, nearly 40,000 family histories and genealogies comprise a major portion of the book collection, many of which are unique or available in only a few libraries in the country.

The microfilm holdings of the Library's Seimes Technology Center, numbering over 53,000 items, provide a major supplement to printed materials in the Library proper. The focus of the Center's collection is on Revolutionary War records of the federal and state governments and collections of land and court records from various states.



Check the card catalog online:

The DAR Library Catalog includes records of all of the Library's published materials (books, periodicals, microform materials) as well as the File Collection, Manuscript Collection and other Special Collections. To search for a book online, please visit:

<http://www.dar.org/library/collections/dar-library-catalog>

Visiting the DAR Library:

The DAR Library is open six days a week:

- Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday: closed

The DAR Library is closed on all Federal Holidays.

Additional closures may also occur around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

During the week of the DAR Continental Congress in late June, the DAR Library is closed to the public. Only members registered for Continental Congress can access the Library during that week.

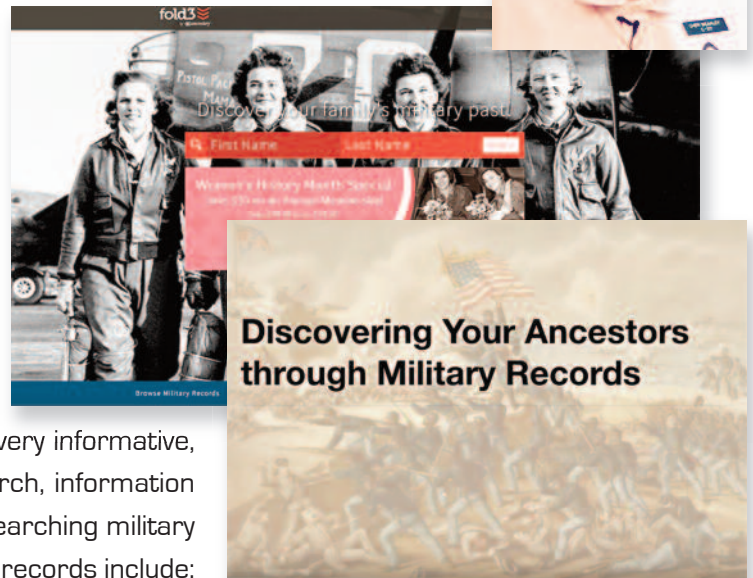
Due to the proximity of the DAR Library to the White House complex, there may be occasions when the DAR Library is unexpectedly closed or inaccessible due to security restrictions.

Winter Program Summaries

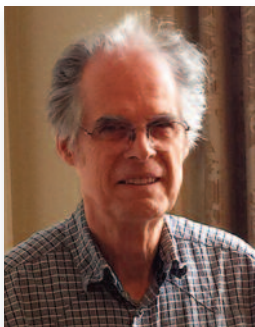
December:

"Military Records and Fold3," led by Cheri Weakley of Lakes, was our excellent program during December. Cheri offered an example of a "lost" relative she discovered through military records, then gave a video presentation. The first part was an outline of suggestions to consider while preparing to search, including age (service age being in the range of ages 16-45) and knowing the names and dates of the twenty-six wars in our history as both colony and nation. If you are researching military records, one should also remember that, until World War II, most records are for men and that there are some significant clues that can be checked, such as obituaries, family photos, papers and medals; tombstones, census, and pensions. The next video was Discovering Ancestors through Military Records through Archives.com and then an introduction to the archives at NARA, followed by an introduction to Fold3, what that site has to offer, and how to navigate through their repository of information. The program concluded with Residents in Arlington Cemetery. It was very informative, gave some nice suggestions, both for strategies to search, information about sources and the advantages for genealogists of searching military records. Several sites to visit before researching military records include:

- Military veterans in your lineage: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RX_pnCWBKKg
- National Military Personnel Center in St. Louis: <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>
- US Department of Veterans Affairs: <https://www.va.gov>
- National gravesite locator: <http://www.cem.va.gov> <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>
- Identifying military records: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oNUen_Z89SY
- Discovering your ancestors through military records: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=jIEj89Crfg0>
- Military research at the National Archives: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2zgKBrsvpxY>
- Fold3 tutorial: <https://genealogy101.live/2013/12/18/welcome-tutorial-for-fold3-the-archive-for-us/>



January:



George Nettleton presented a program during January for amateur genealogists from beginner through expert research levels. He quoted David McCullough by saying, "There really is no such thing as the past. No one really lived in the past. They lived in the present. Their present." He advised us to consider how records may have been kept during our ancestors' lifetimes, and to look for items that may be available. George addressed basic guidelines and suggestions for researching your ancestors, and discussed the many ways their lives may have been documented, ranging from church records, diaries and journals, to land records, census data, wills and probate documents. He covered how to obtain forms, use genealogy websites, how to document sources, and much more. George provided two comprehensive handouts with suggestions for researching and documenting sources you may find. Club members who could not attend the January meeting and who did not receive the handouts by email may contact George (George@nettletons.net) if you need to have copies emailed to you.

February:

Our meeting with Meghan Phillips of the Evangelical and Reformed Society Library, was on "Church Records." Megan began with a brief history of the library and their holdings, then discussed:



Using Religious Records for Genealogy

Meghan Phillips,
Archives Assistant
The Evangelical
and Reformed
Historical Society

Why Church Records? Types of Church Records; What to Look for in Church Records; Possible Issues with Church Records; and finally, Where to Find Church Records. She also left a brochure on the library and her business card. If you are interested, please contact our

Genealogy Club president, George Nettleton (George@nettletons.net), who can email a copy to you. Our group of about 32 people found Meghan's program to be very helpful and informative.



Just for fun...

Ancestor Hate Mail

Dear Olena,

WHO WAS THE FATHER OF YOUR BABY? I'm not judging, seriously. I just need to know. Can you write it on my mirror like that Bloody Mary thing I heard about in sixth grade? It can be just the consonants, like on Wheel of Fortune. I'll take what I can get.



Dear Norwegians,

You know what's a good idea? Surnames. You should get some. Because this patronym thing sucks, and you can't seem to agree on the farm name. And when you get a surname, KEEP IT. You're not supposed to change it daily. You're confusing it with underwear.

Dear Tom,

Basic good manners dictate that at least one of your many marriages/divorces take place in your home state (which has an index). Have as many wives as you want, but at least have the courtesy to marry and/or divorce them in the right state.

Dear Maria,

Listen. I mostly appreciate Germans. You have real surnames, and your language isn't that hard. But this deal where you keep naming the next baby after the last dead baby until one lives? That's creepy. Four Johanns is three too many. Also, it's okay to not name your kids the exact same things your sisters did, in the exact same order. I mean, I'm from an era where people name their kids things like Apple and Rock, so I get it. But I feel like there's a happy medium here.

Dear Everyone,

Please stop living in places that don't have newspapers online. I'm spending a fortune in interlibrary loan fees, and I have to take Dramamine for the microfilm. It would nice if you labeled your pictures too, so I know who's who. Also, which one of you hooked up with a Finn? Because all of a sudden, I have DNA cousins with a bunch of a's in their names, and I'm not sure what you expect me to do with them.

2017 Genealogy Conferences

NERGC 2017

The 14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held April 26–29, 2017, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass.

Kenyatta D. Berry, F. Warren Bitner, Thomas MacEntee, and Mary M. Tedesco will be the featured and opening session speakers. Although early registration rates have expired, you may still register at the current fee of \$150. Single day registration is \$90

For more information about the conference and to register, visit NERGC.org. Follow news about the conference on the NERGC Facebook page, and on the NERGC blog: <http://nergc.blogspot.com>.

International German Genealogy Partnership

The International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) is proud to announce its inaugural conference, to be held in Minneapolis, MN, on July 28-30, 2017. Over seventy workshops and programs will be available

A pdf copy of the registration form and brochure may be downloaded from: <http://www.ggsnm.org/upload/files/flyers/ConfBrochure12pgFinal.pdf>

National Genealogy Society

The National Genealogical Society conference will take place at the Raleigh Convention Center located in Raleigh, North Carolina, 10–13 May 2017. Information about the program, which includes more than 175 lectures, is now available online at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/>

You may download a pdf copy of the registration form online: <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/register/>

Up-to-date information about the availability, amenities, and rates for conference hotels can be found at:

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/attend/accommodations>.

Looking for Additional Conferences?

A Wiki page is available online with a fairly comprehensive listing of genealogy conferences throughout the country during 2017. A few small or new conferences may not be listed (such as the IGGP Conference, above), but the overall list will be very helpful for anyone researching in specific areas:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Upcoming_Conferences

RootsTech 2017 Videos Available

During February, RootsTech —the largest genealogy and family history conference in North America — was held in Salt Lake City, UT. As part of the conference, there were over 200 different workshops and a wide range of keynote speakers. Within the next few months, RootsTech 2017 will make full-length versions of many presentations available online as part of their video archive. But if you search their website, you will discover that many presentations are available now. Among these:

Getting Started in Genealogy

(Kelli Bergheimer)

<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/kelli-bergheimer>

Metadata: Writing on the Back of Digital Photographs

(Alison Taylor)
<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/alison-taylor>

Jewish Genealogy: Where to Look and What's Available

(Lara Diamond)

<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/lara-diamond>

DNA Matching on My Heritage

(Dana Drutman)

<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/lara-diamond>

Mothers, Daughters, Wives: Tracing Female Lines

(Judy G. Russell)

<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/judy-russell>

Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, Family Search, FindMyPast & My Heritage

(Sunny Morton / Lisa Louise Cook)

<https://www.rootstech.org/videos/sunny-morton>

These and all other 2017 RootsTech programs will continue to be available on the rootstech.org site.

Willow Valley Genealogy Club

Tentative Program Calendar 2017 - 2018



September 19, 2017

Journals and Journaling

Presenter: George Nettleton

October 17, 2017

19th C. Immigration to America

Presenter: Van E. Gosse (F&M)

November 21, 2017

Lineage Societies

Presenter: Carolyn Bausinger

December 19, 2017

Organizing Your Research

Presenter: Video

January 16, 2018

Offline Genealogy Records

Presenter: TBD

February 20, 2018

Hands On Workshop: Online Records

Presenter: TBD

March 20, 2018

Evaluating and Citing Evidence

Presenter: TBD

April 17, 2018

Women of our Family

Presenter: TBD

May 15, 2018

Have You Lost Your Census?

Presenter: TBD

17 Years of Research Flushed Down the Toilet

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will preserve your tree for free. In exchange, they benefit monetarily from the presence of your tree. But if you transfer your tree from Legacy using GEDCOM, again, your scanned images are lost.

To preserve your images, you could try an experiment. Buy Family Tree Maker and see if it will directly import your Legacy file. That might preserve your scanned images. Then create an Ancestry Member Tree and link it to the Family Tree Maker file. That might upload all your scanned images. But I don't know if either of those "mights" will work.

A risk you take with either organization, Ancestry or FamilySearch, is that someday they lose interest in freely preserving your family tree. Ancestry is a for-profit company that has discontinued several previous tree products. FamilySearch is owned and bankrolled by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and while believers feel the Church will last forever and its doctrines concerning building family trees will never change, not everyone agrees. Pretty much everyone agrees that preserving your tree in multiple locations is a good idea.