



December 2017

DECEMBER MEETING **Organizing Your Research** video with Drew Smith answering: Has your research and genealogy area become a mad clutter of documents, printouts, and other papers? Are records on your computer so poorly organized that you can rarely find what you need in less than a half day?

Learn how to tame your personal digital and physical clutter so that you can move forward with your research in a more organized fashion.

NOVEMBER 21 MEETING: **Late 19th Century Immigration to America**



The focus of Professor Van Gosse's talk was Nativism, which the speaker defined as hostility towards, or fear or dislike of, immigrants. He told a personal story of how his own father's name was changed, dropping the last name of Mahoney, due to problems the Irish faced. The US considered white Protestants the "right" kind of people, and the Catholics arriving from Europe as the "wrong" kind. Catholics were considered disloyal, tools of Rome.

He highlighted the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the huge influx of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe that began around 1880. Most of these were seeking work, except the Russian Jews, who were escaping pogroms.

1908 saw the beginning of immigration record-keeping. Perusing those records, he said, showed that 52.5% of those immigrants came, worked, and then returned to their countries.

He also discussed the Italian immigrants who were seen as anarchists.

As WWI began, he said the flow of immigrants nearly stopped, which, in turn, fueled the "great migration" of blacks from the South to jobs in the North. In 1918, illegal immigration was finally defined and passports began to be required

(prior to that, you just "arrived" and "got off the boat").

A discussion of the KKK outside of the South was interesting. He said there were about 5 million, located all over the mid-West, PA, NJ, and even New York City. Their slogan was "100% Americanism - only white." He told a story of the Klan riot of 1927 in New York, young Klan men fighting Irish Catholic police. He said one of those arrested on the Klan side was Fred Trump, father of Donald.

WWII found American consuls worldwide complaining about the huge number of Jews trying to obtain visas, and a "quota" system began (see the handout).

In 1964-65, President Lyndon Johnson began to ease up the quotas and finally began a challenge to the idea of Nativism. [*the handout is attached to this email*]

[Our Club Webpage](#) Don't forget to check this to keep up to date on our 2017-2018 schedule. While there, check out some of the other tabs (to keep "tabs on us," so to speak). And remember the site in case a friend is interested in genealogy, but isn't aware of our club or the site.

Dues Every September, we request your dues (\$10/WV residents, \$15 for County residents). See Bob McRobbie to pay (by check to Willow Valley Genealogy Club, please) or to check to see if you already paid. Or mail it to him (Manor B-208). The application is on the website or ask Bob for a copy at the meeting..

Willow Valley Genealogy Club Board

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Officers: We are seeking a volunteer for President-please look around and encourage someone to volunteer for this position-the term ends in June 2019, but the work load isn't that difficult: agenda for Board meetings and making sure the Board members are keeping us on the right track.

Sharing Our Genealogy: We encourage any of you with questions or brick walls or just interest in various websites to see George Nettleton or Wayne Barner during refreshments, as they will have GenealogyBank, Ancestry, Legacy & New England Historical & Genealogy websites available for perusal and searching.

Family History Library: To find digitized sources, go to [Finding Digital Images on Family Search](#). You may still search the catalog, and if you



find a source you'd like which is not yet digitized, let Familysearch know and they may move it up in the queue.

PLANNING:

The Board is seeking volunteers to help plan a hands-on workshop in the spring. We'll have a planning meeting January 12 to discuss what would be interesting to our club members. This date could move based on availability of the participants. If you can help, please let Al Fulvio know at our next meeting or email him (fulvio@comcast.net).

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Here is a site which may or may not help you, but give it a try: [search Free newspapers](#) It lists a number of newspaper archives you can search for free. Let me know if it worked for you,.

comments, suggestions, complaints? Contact: George Nettleton (george@nettletons.net)