



January 2017

JANUARY MEETING .Using GEDCMatch to connect with your DNA



Relatives Gerald Wilson returns with this great program. Have you had your DNA tested with one of the major testing companies? Are you wondering if you might be missing connections with other relatives who may have tested with a different company? The answer is learning to use GEDMatch, an online tool which connects relatives whose tests were done through another DNA lab. Learn how to use the DNA and genealogical analysis tools built into this free service.

DECEMBER 2018 MEETING: Organize your Research video with Judy

Lucey of NEHGS. Not only did this offer suggestions organizing our research, but also pointers about weeding it, storing it, archiving it, what might be the important documents (& which not), as well as why donate it? If you didn't make the meeting, you missed a really good presentation, but wait.... there's more: you can access this on a computer at: [Organizing & Preserving Your Family Papers](#)

These screen shots may whet your appetite to watch the full program.

"Family Papers"

- **Genealogical papers may contain:**
 - Compiled genealogies
 - Family charts
 - Family group sheets
 - Correspondence
 - Some photographs (gravestones)
 - Research notes
 - Originals and copies of records (VRS, church, military, etc.)
 - *Usually have some organization (Binders, folders)*
- **Family papers may contain:**
 - Compiled family data
 - Bible records
 - Correspondence
 - Diaries
 - Estate papers, deeds
 - Photographs
 - Scrapbooks
 - Business records
 - *Often unorganized*

Why should I organize

- Long term preservation of your papers and family treasures
- Genealogical research
 - Trying to write your family history?
 - Identifying research needs and brick wall problems
- Life events
 - Inherited "stuff"
 - Needing to downsize?
 - What will happen to my things?



What do I have? What is of value?

- Letters
- Memoirs/reminiscences/scrapbooks
- Diaries/journals/account books
- Bible records/Family records
- Compiled genealogy with citations
- Photographs (identified)
- Genealogical information
- School records and papers
- Legal documents



And these archival supplier links

to check their catalogs for what sorts of materials are available and their costs:

[Hollinger Metal Edge](#)

[Light Impressions](#)

[Gaylord Brothers](#)

[Brodart](#)

[University Products](#)

Obviously, you can try Staples, OfficeMax, Walmart, Flower & Home Marketplace (East Earl) or Amazon, but the above sites are those preferred by professional archivists. You just have to decide how priceless your collection is and then purchase accordingly.

[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 have 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..

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.

Willow Valley Genealogy Club Board

President:

vacant

Vice-President:

Louise Seaman

Raylouiseseaman@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Bob McRobbie

bobmcrobbie@gmail.com

Secretary:

Pat Burkhart

pburkhart1@aol.com

Director of Programs:

Al Fulvio

fulvio@comcast.net

Director At-Large:

Carol Fricke

pixfricke@gmail.com

Bring Your Questions: There will be expanded time before the meeting, (1:30-2:00) when George Nettleton & Wayne Barner will be available to search out some of your knotty problems or brick walls using Ancestry Genealogy Bank, Newspapers.com, NEHGS and some other of the subscription sites. You are encouraged to bring your questions. They will also be available the half hour after the meeting (3:00-3:30). The presentation will still be from 2:00-3:00, just the half hour before is new.

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. **NOTE**. If you are planning to visit the Family History library on E Main St., call first to be sure of their hours and that they are open-apparently, they are in the process of moving to another room in the church, so the collection may be inaccessible for a while.

PLANNING: On Friday, January 12, Al Fulvio, our Director of Programs, met five members who volunteered to help plan future meeting topics and a hands on workshop. Look for details in your email box or at the Tuesday meeting.

AUDITOR: Our President, Louise Seaman, is looking for volunteers to audit our finances, a CPA would be desired.. Any volunteers? Or do you know a fellow resident who might be willing? Let us know at the January 16 meeting.

DISPLAYS: If any of you have some genealogy items to display, we'd more than welcome them. There will be a table in the back where you may show your display. If you have something, but aren't sure how to display it, see Al Fulvio at the January 16 meeting to discuss it.

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Lancasterhistory.org: Set aside time for our **February** meeting in the Manor Auditorium-it should be special. We will be having an interactive video tour of Lancasterhistory.org which is on President's Avenue. This will be a good chance to find out what kinds of materials and services they offer and ask questions which may help you decide whether to visit them or not, and if, so, what you want to zero in on. It's the premier near by genealogy library (although Mennonite Historical Society by Tanger Mall, also has a good collection) and should be a first stop for us (when the weather warms up & the roads are clearer).

New Year Resolution: We should all be backing up our genealogy on a regular (weekly or at least monthly) basis. Now's a good time to back up your files on a separate drive (thumb drive or external hard drive). I have 3 portable, external drives: one for my daily files & folders, and 2 others which I copy the first onto on a regular basis. I also use a removable thumb drive or my passwords & checkbook files. With the intrusions from the Internet (malware, viruses, etc.), I like to protect at least some of my privacy. But the least is to back up your files on a regular basis.

Historical maps: There are a few sites with historical maps of various areas, the Library of Congress being one. Here's another to try David Rumsey's 82,000 maps We may find boundary changes, house/property names which help us resolve questions in our genealogy. If you know of another good site, let us know.

From the Dick Eastman's January Online Plus Genealogy Newsletter

<https://blog.eogn.com>

Genealogy Software Users Choice Awards for 2017 announced by GenSoft Reviews

The following announcement was written by GenSoftReviews:

The 9th annual Users Choice Awards have been tabulated and awarded at the GenSoftReviewswebsite.

During 2017, 82 of the nearly 1,000 programs listed received 535 reviews. Along with the review, users rated the programs from 1 to 5 star, with 5 being best. Programs that received at least one review in 2017 with 10 or more all-time reviews that achieved a user rating of at least 4.00 out of 5 receive a GenSoftReviews User Choice Award for 2017. The award reflects that the program is well-liked by its users.

The 25 programs awarded a GenSoftReview Users Choice Award as a Top Rated Genealogy Software for 2017 are:

- 13 Windows programs: Family Historian, Ahnenblatt, Personal Ancestral File, Family Book Creator, Ancestral Quest, Generations, Brother's Keeper, RootsMagic, The Master Genealogist, Relatively Yours, Family Tree Builder, Family Tree Maker (up to Version 16), and Ages!
- 3 Mac programs: iFamily for Mac, Heredis for Mac, and Reunion
- 4 programs built for Windows, Mac and Unix: Evidentia, Ancestris, Familienbande, and GenealogyJ
- 5 Online programs: Famberry, The Next Generation, Genealogie Online, webtrees, and MyHeritage
- 0 Handheld programs.

The top program for 2017 was Evidentia, a program that helps you analyze evidence. Evidentia had an almost perfect user rating of 4.98 out of 5 based on 14 reviews. iFamily for Mac, a full-featured genealogy program for the Mac, was second at 4.95 out of 5 also on 14 ratings. And the online program Famberry was third with 4.94 out of 5 from 61 ratings.

New to the list of winners for 2017 was Ancestris, a free full-featured program from France. Ancestris received 8 reviews in 2017 bringing it to 12 reviews in total and making it eligible for the first time. Ancestris placed fourth overall with a 4.92 out of 5 rating.

Heredis for Mac rejoined the winners in 2017 after previously having won from 2012 to 2015. It dropped off the list in 2016 because it did not have any reviews in that year.

Winners in 2016 that dropped off the list this year include GenSmarts and Aldfaer which did not have any reviews in 2017, as well as Clooz and Heredis for PC whose overall rating dropped below 4.00 in 2017.

Several unsupported programs are still thought of highly enough by their users that they

won an award in 2017. These include: Personal Ancestral File, Generations, The Master Genealogist, Relatively Yours, and Family Tree Maker up to Version 16.

Six programs have been GenSoftReviews User Choice Award winners every year since the awards began in 2009. They are: Personal Ancestral File, The Next Generation, Brother's Keeper, RootsMagic, Family Tree Builder and Reunion.

GenSoftReviews uses a time-weighted average score. The weight of every user rating is reduced 50% every year, so newer opinions will be better reflected in the overall average score.

GenSoftReviews was created to be a site, somewhat like TripAdvisor for travelers, where genealogists can go to express their feelings about the genealogy software that they've used and tried. The reviews and ratings will likely help other genealogists who are looking for new software. It is hoped the developers of the programs also will see and use the reviews at GenSoftReviews to improve their programs.

For more information and a complete listing of current and past winners, see the Users Choice Award Winners page at [GenSoftReviews](#).

Internet Genealogy: January 2018 issue has a great article titled "Online Finding Aids Reveal Genealogical Gems." It discusses ledgers. You may ask "what's so great about ledgers, and where would I find them? Well, you really need to read the article which mentions various ledgers: Physicians, Livery, Blacksmiths, Distillery, Hotel, Insane Asylum, Post Office, Insurance Companies and what you might find in them, It also discusses other documents: divorce records, Red Cross records, poorhouse records, petitions, church records, school records, private correspondence, fraternal club records, and such. Particularly for those of us with brick walls, or who think we've "finished" our genealogy, these are some documents to look for. I'll give one mentioned source for accessing some of these: Ancestry.com

Internet Genealogy is available in the Spring Run Library. Some recent back copies are on our genealogy book cart.

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