



May 2018

**MAY MEETING: THIS WILL BE IN THE NORTH (Johnson)**

**AUDITORIUM! Time is the same: 2:00-3:30.** *If you need to know how to get to the Johnson auditorium-ask at the North Concierge desk.* **TOPIC: Have You Lost Your Census!** with Jim Landis. Many of us rely on the census as a primary and rather easy record to use. But it may even have more information that we think and there's not only the straight-forward decennial Federal census, so come expecting to expand your census knowledge.

We will also be **voting** for three officers: VP-Lesley Franconi, Director At Large-Carol Fricke & Bob McRobbie-Treasurer.



**APRIL MEETING: Non-Computer Genealogy**-George Nettleton presented some suggestions of things needed for finding information, places to find the information, and a list of

helpful books. If you missed the meeting and would like a copy of the handout, email [george@nettletons.net](mailto:george@nettletons.net)

**Our Club Webpage** Check this to keep up to date with our 2017-2018 schedule.

While there, check out some of the other tabs (to keep "tabs on us," so to speak). And share the site with a friend who is interested in genealogy.

**Dues** September begins our new season, and it's the time to collect our dues. (\$10/WV residents, \$15 for County residents) .Of course if you pay at our May meeting, you'll be ahead of the game. See Bob McRobbie to pay (by check to *Willow Valley Genealogy Club*, please), or mail it to him (Manor B-208). The application is on the website or ask Bob for a copy at the meeting..

**Sharing Genealogy:**

If you have any genealogy items (family tree, photos, letters. etc) to share-please let Al Fulvio know and bring them to a meeting to display on one of the tables in the back.

We encourage any of you with questions or brick walls or just interest in various websites to see George Nettleton or Wayne Barner the half hour before the meeting (1:30-2:00), or after the meeting, during refreshments, as they will have GenealogyBank, Ancestry, Legacy & New England Historical & Genealogy websites available for perusal and searching.

### **Genealogy Software Programs and Websites Workshop**

Wayne Barner gave an enlightening program covering a number of genealogy programs and brought up a few so we could see their formatting and some of their workings. He also discussed some websites which have cloud family tree capabilities. He also reminded us to check whether our tree would be stored on the cloud or not, and to decide how we feel about that. He answered questions which came up and is willing to answer questions you may have now, or in the future. He and George Nettleton are often in the Orr Auditorium a half hour before and after the meeting to answer your questions, as well as do searches or demonstrate some of the genealogy subscription sites.

#### Willow Valley Genealogy Club Board

##### **President**

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##### **Vice President**

Louise Seaman

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##### **Treasurer**

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##### **Director of Programs**

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##### **Director at Large**

Carol Fricke

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**Family History Library:** The digitizing of their records continues with a target date around 2020. To find their digitized records, go to [Finding Digital Images on Family Search](#) tab. If you are searching the catalog, and find a source you'd like which is not yet digitized, let Familysearch know and they may move it up in the queue of their digitizing schedule.

### **SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

#### **LIBRARY OF INTEREST:**

The [Birmingham Public Library](#) has a great genealogy collection. It's one I've not been aware of before. Check out their Genealogy link and see what they might have. This gives you an idea of a libraries that would be one to zero in on when on vacation or just visiting family.

## E-BAY and Genealogy

I don't know how many of you use E-Bay at all, but this article from a recent Eastman's Plus Genealogy NL, gives some good suggestions for using it as a genealogy tool (article used by permission):

# You Never Know What You Will Find on eBay!

For years I have used a service of eBay that allows me to specify search terms for items being sold. I can specify the search terms once, and then eBay sends me an email notice whenever any new item is added to the online auction service with words in the item's listing that match my search terms. I started doing that perhaps ten years ago or longer, and occasionally it has paid off.

I have often found items for sale that I would not have known about otherwise without manually checking every few days. I have purchased a number of "good finds" over the years, including old family history books, some CD-ROM disks containing genealogy information and county histories, and more. This week, it paid off big time!

My great-grandfather, Orman Eastman, spent his early years in West Corinth, Maine. I do not know a lot about the man's life although I do have a photograph of him that was taken when he was a senior citizen. A couple of weeks ago, eBay sent a message to me that made my eyes open wide: an old photograph had just been offered for sale on eBay, and the description said:

Victorian House Photo, Orman Eastman Home, West Corinth, Maine

When I went to eBay.com and looked at the listing, I found it was not only a photograph of the house but also included four people in front of the house: two men, a woman, and a boy who appears to be five to maybe ten years old. Is one of those men my great-grandfather? Is the



woman in the photo my great- grandmother? (I have never seen a picture of her before.) Who is the young boy in the photo?

In addition, there is a horse in the photo. Normally I would not have paid attention to this except that I remember my father describing visits to this man's home when my father was a young boy. Dad mentioned that my great-grandfather's hobby was breeding race horses and then racing them at county fairs. Was this one of his race horses?

Needless to say, I bid on the picture. A few days later, once the auction had ended, I received notice that I was the high bidder. I went online and paid for the photograph, and it arrived a few days later in the mail. I immediately scanned the photograph at 1,200 dpi (dots-per-inch), the highest resolution available on my desktop scanner. Then I sent the image to a friend of mine who is an expert at digital photo enhancement. (She is also the editor of this newsletter.) She used photo editing program to darken the image and to improve the contrast, and sent the results back to me. Not only did the photo look better, but I can now also see a little girl in the photograph who wasn't visible before!

Here is the result:



*NOTE: The above image still had to be compressed and shrunk in order to fit in this newsletter's web page. The version stored on my own hard drive is larger and higher resolution than the above version. However, the zoomed-in version is still "grainy."*

Hey! Wait a minute! There is a fifth person in the picture! Can you see the little girl in the extreme right side of the above photo? The man seated in the chair has his left arm around the little girl. I can't see her face or other features, but she is definitely there. I had not seen her in the unedited version of the photograph.

The “north end” of a south-facing young colt also is now clearly visible.

Thanks to earlier research in the County Recorder of Deeds’ office, I know when my great-grandfather sold the farm in Corinth and bought another farm in East Bangor, Maine. That tells me the latest possible date that the photograph was taken. Based on that, I now believe I can identify all the people in the photo: my great-grandfather is seated to the right, the man on the left who is holding the reins of the horse probably is my grandfather (who was a very slender man), the woman seated is his wife (my grandmother), and the children shown are the two oldest of their family: my uncle and my aunt, apparently about 3 and 6 years old at that time. The photograph obviously was taken around 1905 or 1906 when my grandparents and their only children (at that time) visited his father. (My grandparents later went on to have five more children, including my father.)

This is now a cherished photograph in my collection. Thank you eBay!

The moral of this story: you never know what you will find on eBay!

If you would like to have eBay monitor new listings for you and to notify you of anything being added that may be of interest to you, read the step-by-step instructions at: [Never Miss Out Again](#)

Another option is the AutomatedSearches web site at <https://automatedsearches.com>. AutomatedSearches is not run by eBay. Instead, it is a third-party web site that searches eBay for you. The AutomatedSearches web site claims that it offers “Up to 1,440 times more effective than eBay’s once-a-day email alerts.” I am not sure how the site’s owners determined their site is 1,440 times better although I do realize there are 1,440 minutes in a 24-hour period. In any case, I’ll take their word for it.

The AutomatedSearches web site allows the user to “fine tune” the searches, such as to only look for items within a specified number of miles of the user’s location or to search only for new items or only for used items and more. When items are found, the AutomatedSearches will send your choice of either an email message or a text message to your cell phone.

The AutomatedSearches web site is available free of charge although the company does sell “upgrades” that add extra functionality. Still, I found the free service to be rather powerful. I’d suggest using the free version for a while and



then decide later if any of the paid upgrades appeal to you. I haven't yet seen any need to pay for anything for my simple usage of eBay. Your needs might be different.

Again, that is at: Automated Search tool. What can YOU find on eBay?

*permission given by Dick Eastman to reprint this for our Genealogy Club-check his website to subscribe to his free newsletter, or \$19 weekly plus newsletter (more information in it-excellent)*

Editor's Note: I, too, have used E-Bay and its tools to find things for my genealogy: names, places, books, etc. It's not perfect, but it's surprising what may turn up there to help with your genealogy

### **Small Town Newspapers Website**

Ever wish you could find information on yourself, your parents or grandparents from your old local weekly newspaper? Well try Advantage preservation, a site which my Nebraska Genealogy Society mentioned. I've been downloading articles about my folks; maybe you'll find things of interest here, too, 238 small town newspapers from various states, It's based in Iowa, so there are lots in Iowa, but I'm searching Westchester County, NY and finding articles on my family. Give it a whirl, (it often dovetails with Chronicling America, a Library of Congress website of digitized newspapers). And remember these (and other) sites are always adding new records, so keep track of the last time you searched, and try again a month or two later-you may find more records.

### **Handwriting sites**

Sometimes we have difficulty reading handwriting, usually on vital records or letters and diaries. Here are two I found with "deciphering handwriting":

<https://www.thoughtco.com/reading-old-handwriting-1422260>

and <http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>

You might also try these books, which are available and can be used in

Lancasterhistory.org & Mennonite Historical Society Libraries:

Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents by Roger F. Minert

Handwriting or American Records for Period of 300 yrs by E Kay Kirkham

Understanding Colonial Handwriting by Harriet Stryker-Rodda

Reading Early American Handwriting Kip Sperry

*If you find a website or tidbit of information which is of interest to you, maybe others in the club would be interested. Send me a website or other link to pass on to the members.*

*If you have suggestions for organizing, storing, searching, preserving, passing on*

*our genealogy, share that with the group at a meeting, or send the idea to me to include in an upcoming issue of Notes.*

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