

Willow Valley

GENEALOGY CLUB



January 2016

Genealogy Gems in the Newspapers

Our December program covered some of the many, many things you can learn about prior generations of your family in old newspapers. For generation after generation, this is how our families learned what was happening in their own town, as well as in the greater world beyond. And so it should not be a surprise to learn that events and residents of all towns were the subject of newspaper articles on a very regular basis. From information about local students and athletes, to tea parties, family reunions, and legal cases, the local paper carried articles about everything and everyone. And this is precisely why newspapers are a gold mine of information about your family.

If you are just beginning to research in newspapers, you will not want to miss Wayne Barner's program in June, which will cover a number of ways to search for newspaper information.

January Meeting: Brick Walls: How to Identify Them and What to Do About Them?

Tuesday, January 19, at 2:00pm

Speaker: George Nettleton

The term "brick wall" is common among genealogists — and all researchers will hit at least one as they trace family back into the past. Just what does the term mean, and how do we identify them.

Member Interest Survey Results

During November and December, your club program committee asked each member to complete and return a survey form to determine your level of interest in a variety of possible future program topics. We were very encouraged with the survey response, as nearly 50% of active members responded.

There was a high level of member interest in programs detailing the ways and reasons our ancestors came to North America during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, as well as in the reasons for their later migration throughout the United States.

Many members expressed an interest in learning how to write a memoir to leave behind for future generations,

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JANUARY DRAWING COMING

At our January meeting, we will have a drawing for 2 tickets for a full day visit to LancasterHistory.org, which you can use to look for information on your ancestors. Even if your ancestors are not from Lancaster or PA, the organization has a lot of sources which may help. Be sure to ask the librarian for help while you are there. **To win, you must be a member of the Willow Valley Genealogy Club and be present at the January meeting.**

Tax Record Information

Are you stumped by some of the tax records you have found for your family?

Jim Landis, our May meeting speaker, will present a program for the Genealogy Club on tax records. Following his program, Jim has offered to discuss with any of our members tax records or research that they have found but do not fully understand. Jim told us that he would be very happy to take a look at your information and tell you what he sees in each case.

Start now to look through your own research to see if you have tax records you would like to discuss with Jim. The May meeting will be here before you know it!

Have you checked the resources page on our club website recently?

Members are beginning to contribute lists of books they own — and in which they are willing to look up information — as well as family surname research they have to share. The list of books alone is becoming extensive. You may find that one of our own members has just the piece of information you have been hoping to find!

<http://genealogyclubwv.com/>

New Member Service

When you come to the next meeting, don't forget about our new member service, "The Genealogy Answer Person." During the half hour of coffee and tea, Wayne Barner will be available to hear questions you may have about your genealogy: how to archive, how to organize, where to look for an obit, what to do as a replacement for a birth certificate, etc. Have your questions ready and make a bee-line to Wayne at the end of the regular presentation.

Where is Genealogy Technology Headed?

Many people are familiar with Dick Eastman, who writes a popular online genealogy newsletter and blog. One of his recent topics discussed the future of technology for genealogy, especially in light of the decision to discontinue Family Tree Maker.

Dick wrote about his thirty-plus years of experience with genealogy software, and changes or improvements over the decades. He then moved on to share his thoughts on both public and private cloud-based services available today, and his well-researched opinion on the future of maintaining genealogy records on personal computers. In all, the article is filled with thought-provoking ideas and new methods to consider.

You will find a copy of Dick's complete article on the future of genealogy technology attached to the same email with this newsletter. We are sending it to you with the permission of the author. Your newsletter editor would like to thank club member, Bob McRobbie, for contacting Dick Eastman and obtaining permission for our club to share his article.

*There is a fine line between a pack rat
and a serious family historian.*

Need to Replace Family Tree Maker? Confused About Your Options?

There are so many other software products — and, right now, there are so many special offers. Which one to choose? To help you make an informed decision, The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) is offering a free webinar on this topic on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 2:00pm. Presenter Rhonda R. McClure will share the information you need on how to select software that's right for you and how to transfer your files from an old program to a new one.

You must register for the free webinar online at:
<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2419120565893263618>

From the President's Laptop

Ancestry decided to discontinue sale of Family Tree Maker as of the end of last year and to support it only until January 2017. This was a bombshell as FTM is a major program in the genealogy field. Fortunately, Ancestry has left enough time for us to try out other programs (as we mentioned in the December meeting). There are a number of them out there. See if the programs have free trial periods and use that time to try out the program. However, when you try one, port a GEDCOM to it and then look through the program to see what ported over and what didn't (because not everything always does—GEDCOM has set fields for some data, but individual programs add other fields or may place the information in different fields, so look carefully). AND KEEP YOUR FAMILY TREE MAKER DATA INTACT until you are satisfied with a new program.

If you are reading this, you probably haven't seen your name in the obituaries. But some day it will be there. Have you decided where your precious genealogy will go? And have you set in motion the steps for that?

If it is to go to a family member, does that person know (and agree)? And have you discussed it with them so they know where your records are and how they're organized? If your plan is to donate your research to a historical, genealogical society or library, do they know? And are they agreeable? Have they given you any guidelines of what to donate and the format(s) they'll accept?

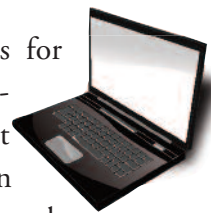
If you have not yet made plans to pass on your genealogy, maybe it's time. You can't take it with you, but you can pass it on.

JANUARY MEETING:

Brick Walls part 1: Strategy and Sources

This is not just for those of us who have "genealogied" for a long time and hit a brick wall, but also for the tenderfoot who is just beginning and constantly hits (or will hit) brick walls in their research.

This will cover strategies and sources for attacking brick walls. The February meeting will be more of a collaborative effort with you, sharing what was learned in January. If you have a brick wall, please send me a copy of it to see if we can help you out.



I'm a little overwhelmed by this topic, even though I suggested it some time ago. It's always easy to make suggestions to others for how they could/should look at their data to break down the brick wall. But when we look at ourselves, that's a different story. There are numerous sources and strategies and I hope to not get bogged down or we miss an important concern you may have. There will be handouts to streamline the process and a keynote program to keep us on the straight and narrow. If time allows, there may be time for suggestions from you at the end of this January talk; if no time exists, maybe some of you would like to share your ideas over coffee and tea.

In preparation, look over your genealogy to find holes in it: missing data, missing records, and so on. And look around your apartment (and storage) to see what other sources you have which could be tapped (old diaries, old bank statements, old calendars, a Family Bible, labeled photographs — yours are all labeled, right? — and so on). It's amazing what we have, but sometimes don't think about using. And you may have copies from books, magazines, census, property records, and so on which you should read over to be sure you've milked all the information they contain.

You might also write "assumption" next to "facts" which you've been told, but haven't verified.

While, I've given away some of the talk, I think it might be important for you to feel prepared for the presentation. It also should make it more meaningful. Since January starts a new year, it is a good time to dig into your genealogy again.,

Looking forward to seeing you on January 19, at 2:00pm, in our regular meeting location.

George Nettleton, President



Willow Valley Genealogy Club

Board Members

George Nettleton
President

george@nettletons.net

Carol Fox Vice President
carolfoxa318@gmail.com

Dave Hazlebeck Secretary
hazlebeck@yahoo.com

Forrest Collier Treasurer
ffcollier@gmail.com

Wayne Barner At Large
wabarn@aol.com

Cheri Weakley At Large
cmweakley@hotmail.com

Carolyn Bausinger At Large
carolyn.bausinger@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Carolyn Bausinger

Member Interest Survey Results

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and, also, how to combine text and photographs to create a professional-looking document.

Members showed significant interest in learning new ways to research online and in ways to improve their online research skills.

There was also considerable interest in learning more about the best-known lineage societies, and the genealogical records they maintain. A number of people wanted to know how to join a lineage society, as well.

Many members want to know more about the various types of legal records available. Interest in records was spread evenly across all possible topics, from land and property records, to church records, to wills and probate records.

Trips to area research and records centers received a favorable response, too. The main centers members want to visit are the Pennsylvania State Archives, the Lancaster Family History Center, and LancasterHistory.org.

Your program committee is using these survey results as we plan programs for 2016-2017, and for the following year, as well. We appreciate our member input into program planning, and are confident that future programs will reflect your interests. Thank you!



During discussion following the December meeting program on researching your family in old newspapers, one member wondered if you could still obtain copies of old newspapers rather than searching online or at historical societies. President George Nettleton looked into this and has shared a website with old newspapers for sale: <http://www.rarenewspapers.com>.

While there is no guarantee that you will find a newspaper available for the area where your family lived long ago, the site is interesting to explore. You never know what you might find!



Grandchildren and Genealogy — How to Develop Their Interest in Their Own Family History

Would you like to include your grandchildren — or great-grandchildren — in your genealogy research? According to some folks, their own children yawn if the subject of genealogy is raised. But the next generation provides an entirely new opportunity to interest family members.

What are some of the best ways to involve your grandchildren in their own family history? Before you start, remember that most children are bored very quickly with all the data, lists, and intricate details that we may find fascinating. What children do like, however, will pave the way to share some special time with your youngest loved ones.

So what DO children like? How can you use this information to help build their interest in family history?

1) One thing most children enjoy is playing detective. Try creating a game in which children sort through clues to find the answer to a problem — or develop a genealogical treasure hunt to collect clues and find a hidden ancestral gem, such as an antique doll or toy car or fishing pole. A number of other games that might appeal to young children were included in our July 2015 issue, which is still available on our website:

<http://genealogyclubwv.com/newsletter.html>

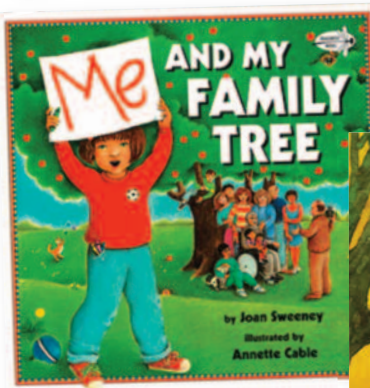
2) Share some family information by telling children stories. How did their parents or grandparents meet and fall in love? Do you have a special memory of a childhood friend or pet that would entertain a child? Or perhaps your family has a cherished anecdote that would make a good children's story. You might even help your young family members write down their version of the story and have them illustrate it.

3) Try assembling an art supply box. In addition to paper, crayons, paint, and other basic supplies, try including a scrapbook kit, disposable cameras, clipboards and copies of old photographs. Or create a genealogy "treasure chest" full of family memorabilia. Children enjoy looking at old photographs and seeing how clothing and hairstyles have changed.

4) Children are now tech savvy at a very early age, so take advantage of this to involve them in preserving your family history. Work together to scan photos and create online scrapbooks. Have them take pictures of documents and relatives with a digital camera. Make movies at family gatherings.

Many more ideas and suggestions are available to help you get started, both online and in books for the younger members of your family. Below are a few that have been recommended for younger children.

BOOKS FOR AGES 3–7



BOOKS FOR AGES 8 AND UP

