



## GENEALOGY CLUB B-E-T-W-E-E-N T-H-E L-I-N-E-S

### From the President

By the time you receive this, our spring program will be winding down, with just our May meeting about footnote.com and our Annual Picnic left on the schedule. Our program chair, Pam Loos-Noji, has already put together the fall program and the information is on the MCHS website (see below). The Picnic will be held at the Waters House History Center in Germantown on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and we hope to see some of the club members who cannot make the Wednesday evening meetings.

We had a very fruitful visit to the DAR Library on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, which followed a presentation on the library at the meeting earlier in the week. Fifteen people attended the Saturday orientation and then were able to do some research. We'll try to schedule another visit to a local repository next spring.

The Club is starting to use the website and e-mail notifications to communicate with members. Watch the website for new articles, and the information on research interests that we have been collecting. The Montgomery County Historical Society is now on Facebook, and postings there include genealogy club announcements and photos, so be sure to become a fan. If you are not already receiving e-mail notifications of meetings and other club activities, you can ask to be included on the mailing list by sending a message to [montmdgenealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:montmdgenealogy@yahoo.com).

- Lorraine Minor

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### Genealogy Club Monthly Meetings

Genealogy Club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville, MD. Call 240-314-5019 for directions. There is ample free parking. Meetings are always held on Wednesdays at 7:30, with refreshments following.

### Upcoming Meeting Programs

*Wednesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.*

**Footnote: An Introduction**, by Laura Prescott. The speaker, who works at Footnote.com, will cover the kinds of documents available and some tips on how to search for what you want.

*Saturday, June 12 from 3-5 p.m.*

The **Annual Genealogy Club Picnic** at the Waters House History Center, Germantown.

**Check the website for updates and changes: [www.montgomeryhistory.org/genealogy\\_club](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/genealogy_club)**

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**Genealogy Club membership is available as a benefit of full membership in the Montgomery County Historical Society.** Members receive free admission to the Jane C. Sween Research Library; regular monthly meetings (September through June), with informative speakers; first notice of all genealogy classes sponsored by MCHS; and assistance with research questions pertaining to genealogy and other historical topics. The Gene Club also holds an annual summer picnic and a December holiday party for its members. While Club meetings are currently free to the public, we encourage you to join MCHS so that you can take full advantage of all the Club has to offer!

## **Genealogy Club Meeting Summaries**

Since the last MCHS Newsletter the Genealogy Club has held one Executive Board meeting and three regular meetings.

On February 24 the Executive Board met before the regular meeting. There was discussion about where and when to hold Board meetings; the Club website; the Research Location Survey forms; and the MCHS History Conference and the future role of the Club. The meeting concluded with discussion of the 2010-11 program year.

At each regular meeting Lorraine Minor makes announcements and asks new attendees and members to introduce themselves and let the members know which families and locations they are researching. Announcements include upcoming workshops and conferences.

The speaker at the **January 27** meeting was Adrian Gravelle, a retired Appellate Judge. He observed that the rules of evidence and other legal habits he gained after years on the bench had an impact on his genealogical research and documentation. In his handout he outlined his strategy for questioning the evidence, accepting the evidence as fact, and properly documenting the evidence. He recognized that much genealogical evidence is "hearsay" and is not always reliable. He feels it is good practice for genealogists to write about their research sources and the conclusions they draw from them. This can explain how conclusions came about and can alert family members to research problems, and records where the information was found. He provided a listing of the five elements of the "Genealogical Proof Standard" (GPS) that has been referred to since 1997. His handout included a list of references and information about the GPS.

On **February 24**, the Club was delighted by Robert McLaren's discussion of Scottish genealogical research. While there were no jigs danced, Mr. McLaren did appear in full Scottish regalia. He gave a quick look at the history of Scotland, such as the impact of "invaders" and immigration. A discussion of special resources for Scottish research, and a list of tips, myths, tartans, and rip-offs, provided the Club with a good research background.

On **March 24**, Steve Davidson, Assistant Director of the Daughters of the American Revolution library, discussed the very special collections available to researchers at the DAR library. While his focus was on the Genealogical Research Committee (GRC) and the digitization program, he also spoke about other collections and indices that can be found here. He provided an overview of library policies as many members would be taking a tour at DAR on the following Saturday.

- Linda Kennedy, Club Secretary

*For full minutes of each meeting, please visit the Genealogy Club page of the website:  
[www.montgomeryhistory.org/genealogy\\_club](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/genealogy_club)*

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### **New Resources Available**

- The Damascus Heritage Society announced that Marianne Uhler Baltrotsky has completed a nine-year project to document the burials at the Damascus United Methodist Church. The records are available online at <http://dumc.wikidot.com/cemetery>.
- As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Jane C. Sween Library will soon have a brand-new micro-film reader, scanner and printer available for our researchers.
- V.L. Skinner continues to donate volumes of *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Pre-rogative Court of Maryland* as they come off the press. We're now up to Volume XXIV (1744-1746).