

GENEALOGY CLUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 28 AND NOVEMBER 18, 2009

**Genealogy Club Minutes from October 28, 2009 2009**

Meeting held at the Rockville Senior Center.

Officers attending: Lorraine Minor, Pam Loos-Noji, Carol Cummings, Linda Kennedy  
Absent: Patricia Andersen

Lorraine opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with announcements:

NARA is considering making the microfilm/reading room smaller because usage is down. Microfilm is no longer available without it being called for and pulled by staff. APG is organizing a member letter campaign disputing the decision. Lorraine asked attendees at tonight's meeting to mark their name if they are interested in being kept informed and if we should post a message to the genealogy membership.

She asked any new members if they would like to tell the meeting about their research interests.

She said that after the presentations attendees could gather to ask about specific software packages.

Announced that November's meeting would be held a week earlier because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting on November 18 and the presentation will be "Finding Original Documents on the Internet", by Angela McGhie, Director of the Columbia Family History Center. She will discuss which types of records are now available and where to find them. She will also look at major collections including vital, census, land and military records along with maps and newspapers.

The four presenters at tonight's meeting were Lorraine Minor, The Master Genealogist; Pam Loos-Noji, Legacy; Cheryl, Personal Ancestry File; and, Julie Trail, Family Tree Maker.

Lorraine Minor and The Master Genealogist (commonly referred to as TMG): Lorraine admitted that TMG is considered very complicated. But if a user starts slowly then they can progress to the potential of the software. She has used it for many years and mentioned that it is very popular among serious genealogists.

Some of the features that she feels are outstanding is the ability to focus on "persons" then on events, there is the ability to store citations and to build your own citation templates. Family charts can be created, printed and adhesive together. There is good support by email, live support on the Company website, a web news group, a Virginia users group, and books and video support. There is also the ability to import data from other genealogical programs as well as personal electronic documents and photos. The cost for the software is approximately \$70.

Pam Loos Noji is an ardent user of Legacy. She mentioned that this software program is not as “full” as TMG but it is easy to use. There is good support and online updates. Family groups can be created with color icons to indicate there is additional data and to map relationship. Direct ancestor’s names are in bold type. An events page presents a chronology. And apparent mistakes in dating, naming, etc. are flagged. Photographs can be added. However, links cannot be loaded onto the family database. Options can be customized by the user including a large variety of reports and mapping features. Legacy Family Tree is currently being developed to work with the new FamilySearch system. It is not available now. To see more information about Legacy go to this website: <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/Features.asp> Pam uses an Apple McIntosh and did try Reunion for Apple but wasn’t able to merge her sources. Legacy is a free download or \$50 to \$60 and upgrades.

Cheryl uses Personal Ancestor File (PAF). She originally paid \$35 although it is free now. It is the personal computer version of Ancestral File, one of the genealogy databases available from Family Search. Personal Ancestral Files can also be read directly into Legacy. It will link images and other media files to individual records. It does not allow for much data analysis. It is very user friendly. There is a user group at the Family History Center in Kensington but it is not very active. A “Show and Tell” is scheduled for December in Kensington. Cheryl said that PAF is old, familiar and comfortable!

Julie discussed her experience with Family Tree Maker. The 2010 version can be purchased from Ancestry for \$39.95. Updates to older versions are available. Family Tree Maker is not as sophisticated as TMG or Legacy but it has membership access to Ancestry.com. Files from Legacy and TMG can be imported to Family Tree Maker 2010. There are also links to other genealogy websites such as RootsWeb. Updates and support are available online. It is capable of charts, reports and mapping but membership to Ancestry.com is necessary to facilitate.

A reminder from all the evening’s presenters was to constantly back up your work! Backup suggestions included backing up to your desktop, backup to a portable or external drive or “Saving to a Cloud.” Saving to a cloud does have a fee associated with it.

After the presentations, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. The presenter’s remained to answer individual queries regarding their specific software.

#### NOTES FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Holiday Gathering began at 7:30 p.m. at the Beall-Dawson House. Debbie Rankin, Director of MCHS and Paul Rankin were guests. Debbie Rankin greeted the Club and expressed the Society’s gratitude for everything the Club does to promote MCHS.

Although the Holiday Party is a social gathering full of good company and delicious treats, a short business meeting was called to order at approximately 8 p.m. Lorraine Minor announced that as representative of the Club, she signed a letter that was sent to NARA in support of APG's and other genealogical organizations objecting to removal of microfilm from the NARA research rooms, decreasing research space, and other actions that would no longer support onsite researchers

Pat described the microfilm reader that the Sween Library is considering purchasing with donations received through 2009. The Library is still short the total amount needed and hoped that holiday gifts would help meet the purchase price. [We have since attained the required amount with the help of donations from the Holiday Party to purchase the less expensive of the microfilm scanners.]

Larry Moore described the items that were auctioned in Frederick, Maryland from Margaret Myers genealogical collection. He purchased photographs and other items including a microfilm reader. Some of these items will be donated to the MCHS Sween Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Everyone enjoyed the rest of the evening celebrating in the delightfully decorated Beall-Dawson House.

### **Genealogy Club Minutes from 18 November 2009**

This is a short summary of the meeting, since our Secretary was not present. President Lorraine Minor opened the meeting and presented the slate of officers for 2010. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was accepted unanimously. She also announced that Julie Trail had agreed to be Membership Coordinator and that Mary Ann Banta would coordinate meeting refreshments. She reminded everyone about the Holiday Party on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at the Beall-Dawson house.

The speaker for the evening was Angela McGhie who talked about finding original records on the Internet. The number of original records on the internet is growing each day and it is important to use these records whenever possible, since indexes and transcriptions may be inaccurate or miss information vital to solving a research problem. She discussed where one can find the following: Census Records, Military Records, Vital Records, Immigration Records, Newspapers, Maps and Land Records. Her handout included addresses for the internet sites she discussed and information on where to gain free access to some subscription sites. Family History Centers have access to Footnote.com, World Vital Records and Find My Past (British).

Several free sites were mentioned. FamilySearch is digitizing and indexing many of the records currently only available on microfilm and these records are available at [pilot.familysearch.org](http://pilot.familysearch.org). Maryland land records are available after obtaining a free password at [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net). The Library of Congress has digitized newspapers from 1880-1910 for several states at [www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/](http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/). Many states are digitizing death records and making them available on-line. A list is available at

[www.deathindexes.com](http://www.deathindexes.com)