

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 newsletter, club activities will be winding down for the summer. Thanks to everyone who contributed refreshments at club meetings, helped with our table at the National Archives Genealogy Fair and otherwise contributed at club events. Thanks to Pam Loos-Noji for putting together our fall program, which is listed below. If you travel over the summer to do research, may you find cracks in those brick walls. See you in the fall.

I had some errors in the list of club officers that was published in the Feb/Mar newsletter, so I am publishing the list again. My apologies.

2009 Genealogy Club Officers

President: Lorraine Minor - 301-229-3515
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Lorraine Minor, President

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.

September 23 *Tracking Your Genes in Genealogy: DNA Testing*

Thomas H. Shawker, M.D., author of *Unlocking Your Genetic History*, explains the principles behind Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA tests for genealogy, how to interpret the results, and how you can use them for genealogy.

October 28

Genealogy Computer Programs with a panel of Club members.

The panel will discuss the features of four genealogy programs: Legacy, Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestry File, and The Master Genealogist. After the formal discussion, each panel member will be able to demonstrate the software on individual laptops and answer questions to small groups of interested potential users.

November 18 *Finding Original Documents on the Internet*

Angela McGhie, director of the Columbia Family History Center presents a session on discovering which types of records are now available and where to find them. She will look at major collections as well as vital, census, land and military records along with maps and newspapers.

Genealogy Club Meeting Minutes

APRIL 22, 2009 – Lorraine Minor opened the meeting. On behalf of the Club, Lorraine thanked Phyllis Ordway for bringing the refreshments for tonight's meeting.

Pam Loos-Noji introduced tonight's speaker, Jeff Korman. He is the Manager of the Maryland Department at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

Mr. Korman's described the role of the Enoch Pratt Free Library as the central public library for Baltimore, MD. In 1971, the Maryland General Assembly designated the Pratt Central Library as the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) for Maryland. The Maryland Department is a part of the SLRC. Because Pratt Library also functions as the Maryland State Library, any public library system card from the state of Maryland is accepted for circulation purposes. However, to obtain access to specific Pratt Library databases over the internet, the researcher must either visit the Library or obtain a Pratt Library card for a small fee. One such database available with the Pratt Library card is *Ancestry.com*.

The Maryland Department allows complete access to its holdings. Although not all items circulate, the stacks are open and all requests for materials are honored. The atmosphere at Pratt is easy and relaxed. There are 200 public computers, the staff responds to reference questions electronically and by telephone and they have the largest collection of historic county newspapers in the state, old and current.

Genealogical resources available at the Maryland Department include city directories, telephone

books, vertical files, family biographies, yearbooks, Sanborn maps. Other tools include subject guides, “how to guides,” and “show me guides.”

For more information about the Enoch Pratt Library and specifically the Maryland Department visit their website at www.prattlibrary.org.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and discussion at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Linda M. Kennedy, Secretary

First Friday

MAY 1, 2009 – Linda Kennedy is renewing her effort to research her (supposed) ancestor Eduard de Stoeckl. Historically, he was the Russian counterpart to William Seward in the long drawn out negotiations for the U.S. purchase of Alaska in the mid 1860’s. Despite family stories, she has not been able to trace the line that connects the families. Vern Skinner was on hand to provide some insight. He suggested visiting the Library of Congress’ history room and to check the State Department records at Archives II. Even the Russian Embassy may offer some help.

Mr. Kelly was back to show Pat and the others how he has illustrated his family tree on poster board. He has added many new branches since his previous visit. Mr. Kelly is researching his New England roots. He located and purchased an 1899 publication compiled by George P. Allen entitled *A History and Genealogical record of the Alling-Allens of New Hampshire and Connecticut*. He said it was extremely helpful identifying members of his family.

For a school thesis, Mr. Kelly’s niece researched and wrote a family genealogy. He obtained a copy of the thesis and used that information to create his family tree too. Although the thesis contained a large amount of information, the citations were incomplete and Vern warned us about the importance of concise, accurate citations.

Vern also remarked that when creating a family tree or genealogy, using geographic references should reflect the historical time. For example, do not refer to Montgomery County, Md. if the time period predates 1777. The same is true for proper names. Names should be used as they appear in the original document; then, the common term can be used. That will make the entry easier to find again.

Mr. Kelly is also researching the Botetourt family. It was suggested that he use the DAR Library and the Family History Center to use different published items on the Botetourt’s. Vern promised that he would bring in VSL Library books for June First Friday and Mr. Kelly should attend.

The first week of June will be a busy genealogical week with the tour to Archives II on Thursday June 4, Vern has something special planned

for First Friday on June 5 and the Genealogy Club Anniversary Dinner is on Sunday June 7. Also, for interested Club members, the Society’s Annual meeting is being held on Wednesday June 3. So we hope you can squeeze in time for First Friday too!

Some Library Notes– New Acquisitions

- We recently received several new books from a researcher of St. Mary’s Counties Families, and have added to our collection two volumes of newspaper abstracts by Charles David Long, covering Obituaries, Memorials and Death Notices from 1883-1902, 1912-1930 and 1931-1969; and six volumes of Census records for St. Mary’s County, from 1800, 1810, 1820, 1840, 1860 and 1870, all publications of the St. Mary’s County Genealogical Society.
- Two more volumes of Montgomery County Sentinel Abstracts done by John Bowman were received covering 1897 to 2004.
- June Lynch Cole donated a manuscript, *The Colored Settlement: A History of an African American Community, Potomac, Montgomery County, Maryland*. Which includes information on several families.
- *The Spirit of Methodism in Kensington, 1885-2007*, was recently donated to our library, in the name of the late Jessie Rowdybush Walsh. Mrs. Walsh, who died in April of 2001, had stipulated that when the church history was completed, MCHS was to receive a copy, according to the committee member who brought in the book to us. Besides providing a history of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, in Kensington, it also provides a brief history of the birth of Methodism, a broader history of the Kensington community, from it’s beginnings as Knowles Station on the Chevy Chase and Kensington Railway, and it includes many illustrations and photographs of members, church activities and the pastors who have served their community since 1885. The book was prepared by the church’s history committee, and may be ordered through them, at St. Paul’s U.M. Church, 10401 Armory Ave., Kensington, MD 20895.