

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

**President's Message:** As you can see from the meeting schedule, we are offering a wide variety of programs at the next few monthly meetings. I'm hoping we can have a good turnout for our speakers, so come and bring a friend. The 2009 officers are listed below. Please contact one of us if you have ideas, questions or comments about the club. Planning is proceeding on a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in June and we should have complete details by the next newsletter.

– Lorraine Minor

## 2009 Genealogy Club Officers

**President:** Lorraine Minor; 301-229-3515  
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**Vice President:** Carol Cummings; 301-294-9230  
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**Secretary:** Linda Kennedy; 301-947-3367  
lmkennedy70@comcast.net

**Membership Chair:** John Herman; 301-657-2851  
jherman148@aol.com

**Program Chair:** Pam Loos-Noji; 202-829-3560  
pamloos@mac.com

**Newletter Coordinator:** Pat Andersen; 301-340-2974  
She would like us to send messages to both home and work addresses: genlaw@comcast.net or pandersen@montgomeryhistory.org

## *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.

### **February 25**      *Research in Land and Probate Records*

Librarian Pat Andersen will present research techniques used to find out genealogical information about "Elizabeth Pritchett (1792-1858) and her Electrifying Machine" in land and probate records, while highlighting some new resources at the Montgomery County Historical Society Library.

### **March 25**      *Getting from Research to Publication and Beyond*

Allen Beatty will discuss how to publish the results of your research including data entry considerations, copyright issues, what software to use, decisions when publishing via a book, marketing and distribution.

### **April 22**      *Introduction to Genealogical Resources in the Maryland Department, Enoch Pratt Free Library, State Library Resources Center*

Learn about the book and microform resources for Maryland genealogical research at the Enoch Pratt Free Library from Department Head Jeff Korman. The talk will include information about the variety of online information and value-added material that has been created by Maryland Department staff, and discussion of the Library's vast collection of historic newspapers.

### **May 27**      *WWII Records at the National Archives in College Park*

John Bowen is a volunteer at the National Archives in College Park. He will give a general overview of WWII records at College Park with an emphasis on those series of records that relate to people and have genealogical value. He will also lead a tour of Archives II on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## *Meeting Minutes*

**November 19, 2008:** Lorraine Minor opened meeting at 7:30 p.m. Officers present: Lorraine Minor, John Herman, Linda Kennedy, and Patricia Andersen. Lorraine presented the slate for election of the Genealogy Club officers:

President: Lorraine Minor  
Vice President: no nomination  
Secretary: Linda Kennedy  
Program Chair: Pam Loos-Noji  
Membership Chair: John Herman

Philip Ordway made a motion to accept the presented slate of officers. Carol Cummings discussed the responsibilities of the vice-president and then accepted the nomination.

Pat Andersen repeated the motion to accept the complete slate of officers for the 2008-2009 Club year. The motion was seconded by Forrest Minor. The membership voted unanimously to accept the slate.

Other business included a reminder that December's meeting is the holiday gathering at the Beall-Dawson House. It will begin at 7:30 pm and everyone is invited to bring a tasty treat. Pat asked that anyone wishing to make a specific donation to the library speak to her first. She also suggested index cards and volunteer hours as excellent ways to support the library. January's meeting will be held at the Rockville Senior Center and it will be a panel discussion and demonstration of genealogy software.

Lorraine thanked Pat Andersen and Pam Loos-Noji for providing refreshments for this month's meeting. She then introduced Char McCargo Bah. Ms. Bah's presentation is *Free or Not: The African American Jackson Family from pre-Revolution to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*.

Ms. Bah, a professional genealogist, was hired by a Massachusetts judge to trace his ancestor, Berry Jackson. He thought that Berry Jackson was a woman. However, on the *1822 List of Free Negroes*, Berry Jackson was listed with his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Betsy and six children.

Ms. Bah said that it is unusual to find so much material on free African Americans in court records. She was able to find records dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. She traveled to various counties in Virginia and found information in Halifax and Charlotte counties as well as online at the Library of Virginia: [www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gene/index.htm](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gene/index.htm). The Federal Census contains valuable information. Ms. Bah learned that it is very important to notice the information provided about neighbors and white families as this can provide clues to ownership. She also found Paul Heinegg's book *Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware* and *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina* to be a wonderful resource during her research. Some of this work can be found at [www.freeafricanamericans.com](http://www.freeafricanamericans.com).

Church records are also a valuable source of information. Many churches keep membership lists by year and she was able to find family names at the Childrey Baptist Church in Nathalie, Virginia. This church was founded in 1783 and the membership included both whites and blacks. Since Berry Jackson has been discovered and much information about him and his descendants has been uncovered the search is continuing for Berry's parents. It is possible that Berry's mother has been found as early as 1730 and so the quest goes on. The meeting was adjourned for refreshments at 9:15 p.m.

**December 17:** Lorraine Minor opened the meeting of the meeting was held at the Beall-Dawson House. Officers present: Lorraine Minor, John Herman, Linda Kennedy, Carol Cummings, Pam Loos-Noji and Patricia Andersen. Debbie Rankin, Executive Director of Montgomery County Historical Society, and her husband Paul were also in attendance.

Lorraine announced that a celebratory dinner is being planned for the June 2009 meeting to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Genealogy Club. The dinner will be held instead of a picnic. Ideas for the dinner are welcome. Lorraine introduced Debbie Rankin, Executive Director of MCHS. Debbie said a few words of greeting.

There was a brief discussion about the Genealogy Club webpage on the MCHS website. There are plans to redesign and update the Club's page. The January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Rockville Senior Center in the Arts and Crafts Room. This meeting will be a panel discussion about various genealogical software packages.

Pat Andersen mentioned that an older version of Family Tree (#11) will be raffled at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, she received a phone call from Mary Matson. Mary wants everyone to know that they did not move to Upstate New York as planned and that Charles is in the Potomac Home. They welcome calls and cards. Linda Kennedy asked members to donate any papers or photographs they may have at home that document the activities of the Genealogy Club.

Debbie Rankin mentioned that the Historical Society has acquired a new projector through a grant. She said that the projector is available for the Club's use when needed. The meeting was adjourned for a tour of the house and refreshments at 8:30 p.m.

**January 28:** The January meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather. As there was a great interest in Pat talking about MCHS' Jane C. Sween Library holdings, it will be re-scheduled in the fall.

Submitted by Linda M. Kennedy, Secretary

### **First Friday Notes**

**DECEMBER:** The last few First Fridays have brought delightful surprises for experts and amateurs alike. December's workshop was just as surprising when Jackie Hardy showed everyone the Cole family genealogy that was compiled in 1922. Although not descended from the Cole family, Jackie was given the book by a cousin who is related by marriage. Jackie wanted to discuss options for making the history a viable research tool for others. The Cole family hailed from Mamaroneck, NY but the history ends at the time of the Civil War in Frederick, MD. The book is typewritten and includes plot maps and portraits. It is in a 3-ring binder with a deteriorating leather cover. Archivist Rob Jensen suggested several safe storage solutions. While paging through the binder, a Library of Congress catalog card was found. The Cole history had been given to the Library of Congress many years back. Jackie has also put together binders on four other families. They are full of wonderful primary source materials from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> c. Included are photographs, letters, ration books, pension papers and more. She has organized most of it in plastic sleeves but she was hoping that she could obtain information on not only the best storage solutions to preserve this material but also on how to document and transcribe the items.

Vernon Skinner had helpful suggestions on documenting the clippings and photographs with names, dates and locations. He suggested using a computer or typewriter to transcribe letters and handwritten documents to avoid any difficulty for future interpreters. Be sure that nicknames and abbreviations were explained somewhere in the document, as it's awfully hard to research a nickname! One suggestion was to photocopy the original papers for "use" copies of the genealogies. Then the originals can be stored in a safe environment. Vern also said that it is important to cite all documents obtained from various sources. This helps to document not only the information found but where it was obtained.

**Information on Ellis Island Immigrants** – Marian Smith, historian at the US Customs and Immigration Service, has started an occasional blog. If you have ancestors that arrived in New York between 1897 and 1903, you should read her comments about missing cabin manifests, [www.mariansmith.com](http://www.mariansmith.com).

**Swedish Emigrant Genealogical Seminar** -April 11, 2009, 9am-4:30pm. Sponsored by Drott Lodge #168, VASA Order of America is sponsoring a research seminar on emigrant ancestors to be held at the Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Dr., Rockville. Cost for VASA members is \$10; non-members \$20. For Registration questions please contact Janet Johnson, [JJohn30254@aol.com](mailto:JJohn30254@aol.com) or 301-962-3788.

