



September 2018

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 2:00pm

Tracing Health Clues in Your DNA and Family History

Speaker: Dr. Erik Puffenberger, Laboratory Director at the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg and respected geneticist.

Dr. Puffenberger will discuss comparisons of commercially available genetics tests as well as the unique hints about current researchers' health history found in family records. If you are wondering why one of the grandchildren has red hair or green eyes which have not been seen for four generations or why you suddenly have been diagnosed with asthma, this talk will provide some interesting clues for you to check.

For the rest of our calendar be sure to check our [website](#)

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COMING SOON TO YOUR COMMUNITY:

Al Fulvio & George Nettleton will be teaching a Renaissance class (2 sessions) on Sources of Genealogy. The first session will be a presentation of sources and the second session will be hands-on utilizing those sources.

For the 2nd session, we could use some Genealogy club volunteers to help with the independent hands-on. And if you have a laptop, that too, would be a help as we don't know how many of the participants will have one to bring (books will also be available, so not everyone will necessarily be using a computer).

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Dues September begins our new season, and it's the time to collect our dues. (\$10/ WV residents, \$15 for County residents). Of course if you have paid, you'll be ahead of the game. See Bob McRobbie to pay (by check to *Willow Valley*

Genealogy Club, please), or mail it to him (Manor B-208). The application is on the website or ask Bob for a copy at the next meeting..

Sharing Genealogy:

If you have any genealogy items (family tree, photos, letters. etc) to share-please bring them to a meeting to display on one of the tables in the back.

We encourage any of you with questions or brick walls or just interest in various websites to see George Nettleton or Wayne Barner the half hour before the meeting (1:30-2:00), or after the meeting, during refreshments, as they have GenealogyBank, Ancestry, Legacy & New England Historical & Genealogy websites available for perusal and searching.

LDS Family

History Library:

The digitizing of their records continues with a target date around 2020. To find their digitized records, go to [Finding Digital Images on Family Search](#) tab.

If you are searching the catalog, and find a source you'd like which is not yet

digitized, let Familysearch know and they may move it up in the queue of their digitizing schedule.

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SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST:

This interesting note was slipped under my door recently and thought I'd share it with you all. Burt is a Spring Run Resident and this is a story about a serendipitous genealogy event:

I had never heard of Leigh d'Agostino when I received her letter. Why would she be writing me? I would have loved to have met her to thank her profusely for her kindness. Leigh was cleaning out the attic of her grandmother, Kitturah Honakeer, in Charleston, West Virginia, when she discovered a box of letters from someone named Joseph Kirkman. She thought the letters were touching and decided to contact a descendent of the man who had written those letters to his sister. All Leigh knew was that the letters had been postmarked in Clinton, Iowa-my hometown. Leigh looked up people named Kirkman with addresses in Clinton and somehow learned my E-mail address. She wrote

to me and asked, "*Was I somehow related to Joseph Kirkman?*" Joseph was my father, he died when I was 9 years old.

There were half a dozen letters dating back to 1917, long before I was born. the letters told me many things I didn't know about my father and his struggle to earn a living for his first wife and five children. Soon after moving to Iowa from West Virginia, the Kirkman family came down with an illness unknown in Iowa at the time. Several doctors were consulted in vain. Water from the well and milk from the cow were tested, but provided no clue as to the cause of the illness.

Three year old Helen was the first to die. My heartbroken father went to the cemetery for his daughter's burial. His wife stayed home because the rest of the family was so sick. When my father returned home, he discovered that five-year old Josephine had died while he was gone. Within months, his wife was also dead from the same illness. it was now up to nine year old Mildred to run the household and cook for the remainder of the family.

In retrospect, it is likely that my father's family died from the flu epidemic of 1917-18 that went on to kill millions of people worldwide. It would have been so easy for Leigh d'Agostino to discard that box of old letters from someone she didn't know. Thanks to Leigh, I have my father's own poignant words to describe his suffering through the family's tragedy. Thank you, Leigh.

NOTE: the above will probably appear in the Creative Writing booklet before the end of the year; Burt gave me permission to include it in our newsletter, too.

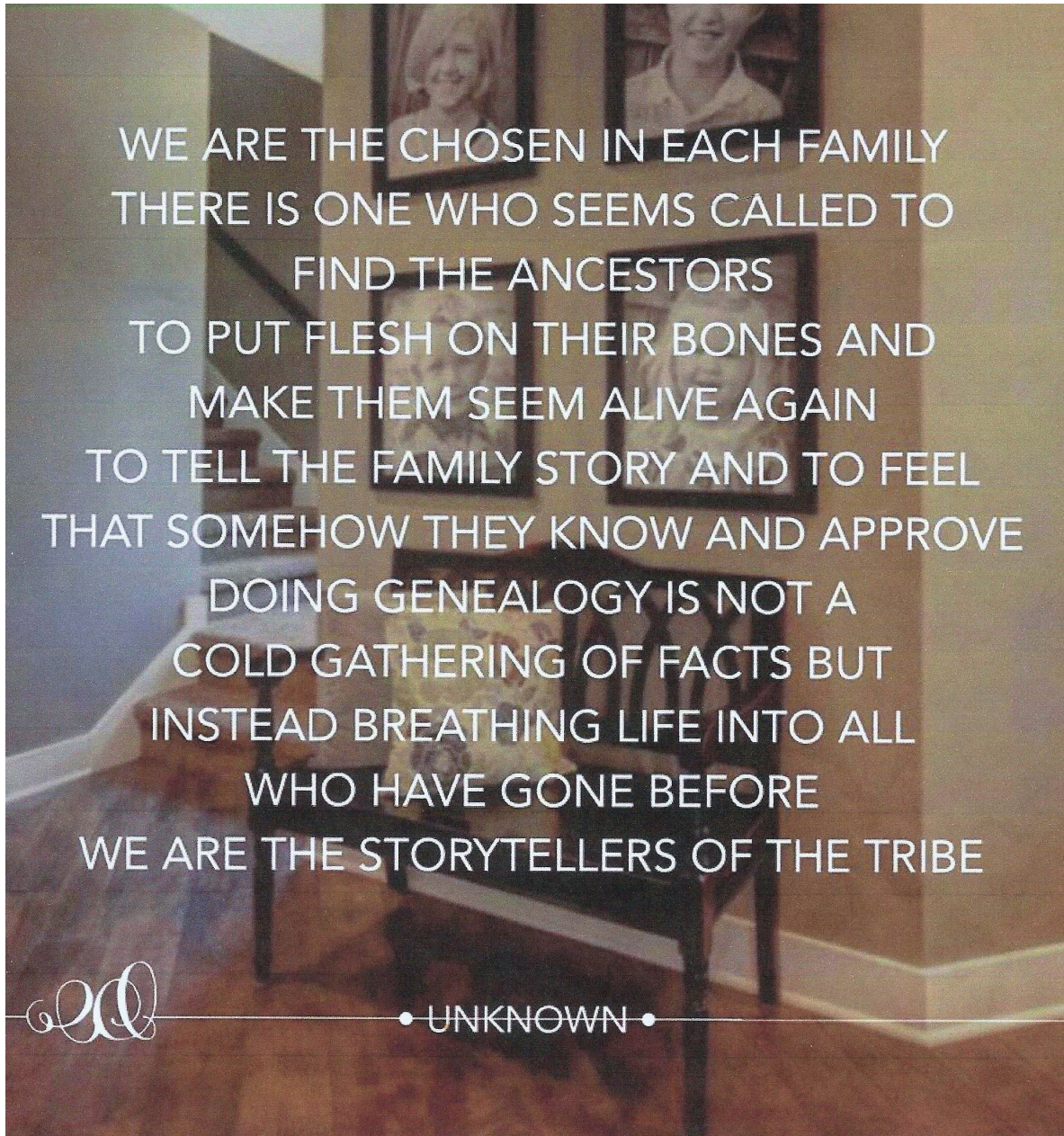
Moral: expect the unexpected. So if your children or grandchildren ever run across old family

Gramps, a free open-source genealogy program has just been updated and runs on both the pc and Mac. It might be something to check out-the price is pretty reasonable (free),. As with any new program, it probably will have a learning curve, however. If you already are using another program, you could save the data as a GEDCOM and import it into Gramps to see whether you could use it.

treasures-have them reach out to family members who might be thrilled with them.

In a related way, you might find collections of photos, letters or other family treasures on E-Bay. I picked up a box of Nettleton photos on E-bay- unfortunately, they aren't my family, but I plan to put them up again or reach out to Milford, CT Nettletons to see if anyone is interested in them.

This from Lois Rilling:



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If you find a website or tidbit of information which is of interest to you, maybe others in the club would be interested. Send me a website or other link to pass on to the members.

If you have suggestions for organizing, storing, searching, preserving, passing on our genealogy, share that with the group at a meeting, or send the idea to me to include in an upcoming issue of Notes.

Comments, suggestions, complaints? Contact: George Nettleton (george@nettletons.net)