



February 2019 How Can Our Club Library Help You? Our club's librarian, Pat Burkhart will present an overview of what printed materials are available in our very own selective Club library. Her discussion will include books we own, how to use these in-house materials for your own genealogy research, German ancestor research, immigration links and accessing both national and state archives as well as use of CDs prepared by Ancestry.

JANUARY 2019 Hereditary Societies; Lois Rilling, discussed reasons for joining a hereditary society, some of her experiences and how she got involved. She also discussed a few societies, some of which some in attendance belong to: Mayflower Descendants, DAR, SAR and such. Unfortunately no one belongs to the Descendants of Pirates & Privateers-such a shame. Her Powerpoint & Note for this presentation were emailed to the membership; if you didn't



receive them, contact Al Fulvio (see sidebar for email address).

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To help our questions about copyright, [here's](#) a simple explanation of the law. You may not be interested, but if you publish a family history or are sharing copies of something which includes pages from a book or website, this may help figure out whether or not you might be libel for not getting permission to share these pages.

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Meeting Displays:

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.

The WVGC library catalog is on our website. Click on RESOURCES, then in the 3rd paragraph, click “Please see Genealogy Club Resources part 2 for the list of available books.” CHECK IT OUT! (or at least some of the materials).

If you decide to borrow one of the books, there is a green folder on one end the book cart; sign it out (and in) in there when you borrow/return books.

There also are a number of items put out for grabs-look for them on the stage at the meetings, because, when they’re gone, they’re gone.

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What’s Your Genealogy Problem? We’re considering a program or two with a different format and would like your input.

The concept is “What’s Your Problem?” The idea is to present a hands-on session (or series) to help answer some of the questions you may have about your genealogy, such as:

How do I find the parents of an ancestor who immigrated from [country] in {date}?

How do I find family prior to the 1850 census?

Are there cousins I can contact to see if they have information on the family?

What’s the possible date of this photo?

What did a [occupation] do?

Are there libraries, historical societies, or genealogy societies near [ancestor’s home] who might help me?

I’m having trouble with my genealogy program-can I get help?

Does anyone have [subscription site] who would look up an ancestor’s record for me? or would I be able to come and do some searching on my own?

How do I organize my “stuff?”

One of these questions might be yours, or you may have another. Do you have some problems/questions that are keeping you from working on your genealogy? Or one which has been a sticky-wicket for you?

Let us know your thoughts on this kind of hands-on session to help answer your individual questions..

Al Fulvio, Teri Asche, George Nettleton

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A Great Quote: I’m in the midst of a very well-written book with a very unassuming title: The Library Book Its overlying themes are the 1986 Los

Angeles Central Library fire which lasted seven hours and burned more than half of their collection, and remembrances of her visits to the library with her mom. On pages 92-92 is this excellent description of what we, as genealogists, do:

“Right before learning about the library fire, I had decided I was done with writing books. Working on them felt like a slow-motion wresting match, and I wasn’t in the mood to grapple with such a big commitment again. But here I was. I knew part of what hooked me had been the shock of familiarity I felt when I took my son to our local library---the way it telegraphed my childhood, my relationship to my parents, my love of books. It brought me close, in my musings, to my mother, and to our sojourns to the library. It was wonderful and it was bittersweet, because just as I was rediscovering those memories, my mother was losing all of hers. When I first told her that I was writing a book about libraries, she was delighted, and she said she was proud that she had a part in making me find them wondrous. But soon the dark fingers of dementia got her in their grip, and they pried loose random bits of her memory every day. The next time I reminded her about the project and told her how much I had been thinking about our trips to Bertram Woods [Library], she smiled with encouragement but with no apparent recognition of what I meant. Each time I visited, she receded a little more--she became vague, absent, isolated in her thoughts or maybe in some pillowy blankets that filled in where the memories had been chipped away---and I knew that now I was carrying the remembrances for both of us.

“My mother imbued me with a love of libraries. The reason why I finally embraced this book project---wanted and then needed, to write it---was my realization that I was losing her. I found myself wondering whether a shared memory can exist if one of the people sharing it no long remember it. Is the circuit broken, the memory darkened? My mother was the one person besides me who knew what those gauzy afternoons had been like. I knew I was writing this because I was trying hard to preserve those afternoons. I convinced myself that committing them to a page meant the memory was saved, somehow, from the corrosive effect of time.

“The idea of being forgotten is terrifying. I fear not just that I, personally, will be forgotten, but that we are all doomed to being forgotten--that the sum of life is ultimately nothing; that we experience joy and disappointment and aches and delights and loss, make our little mark on the world and then we vanish, and the mark is erased, and it is as if we never existed. If you gaze into that bleakness even for a moment, the sum of life becomes null and void, because if nothing lasts, nothing matters. It means that everything we experience unfolds without a pattern, and life is just a wild, random, baffling occurrence; a scattering of notes with no melody. But if something you learn or observe or imagine can be set down and saved, and if you can see your life reflected in previous lives, and can imagine it reflected in subsequent ones, you can begin to discover order and harmony. You

know that you are part of a larger story that has shape and purpose--a tangible, familiar past and a constantly refreshed future We are all whispering in a tin can on a string, but we are heard, so we whisper the message into the next tin can and next string. Writing a book, just like building a library, is an act of sheer defiance. It is a declaration that you believe in the persistence of memory.

“In Senegal, the polite expression for saying someone died is to say his or her library has burned. When I first heard the phrase, I didn’t understand it, but over time I came to realize it was perfect. Our minds and souls contain volumes inscribed by our experiences and emotions; each individual’s consciousness is a collection of memories we’ve catalogued and stored inside us, a private library of a life lived. It is something that no one else can entirely share, one that burns down and disappears when we die. But if you can take something from that internal collection and share it---with one person or with the larger world, on the page or in a story recited-it takes on a life of its own.”

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LDS Family History Library: The digitizing of their records continues with a target date around 2020. 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. To find their digitized records, go to [Finding Digital Images on Family Search](#) tab. New records are being added constantly, so check often.

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Got Old Letters or E-mails? Old letters and postcards can offer information about your family: trips, occupations, job changes, new addresses, additions to the family and so on). To that end, I’ve started scanning groups of letters (our son, our daughter, hobby friends) into a single chronological order pdf for each person. That way, I can read through them continuously on my computer and can even make notes in them. Then I thought, but what about all the emails I have from them? I could make each into a pdf and append them to the appropriate file. But wait-if I keep them in a word processor, in chronological order, they could be searchable.

And all those emails we save (you do, don’t you?) could all be scanned through in one continuous file instead of opening each, closing it, opening the next, and so on.

Of course you may ask: so George, what do you do with those files? My answer is a question and a response: question: what do you do with all your emails? do you ever wish you could find the one that has xxx in it (new phone #, job change, family visit, etc.). So my answer is: I plan to put them in a Chronology, along with other things I have.

This is something you might wish to consider as we sit inside on these chilly February days.

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Use a good website? Send us link to pass on to our members.

Comments, suggestions, complaints? Contact: George Nettleton:

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