Willow Valley GENEALOGY CLUB

March 2019

March 2019 Lancasterhistory.org & Your Research; Nathan Pease will discuss ways that LancasterHistory.org can help you with your genealogy research through use of their research library, archives, library holdings, photographs, maps, and historical objects. You will leave with a thorough understanding of what records and resources they have to offer for your genealogical research.

February 2019 How Can Our Club Library Help You? At the Genealogy Club meeting Tuesday, February 19, 2019 Pat Burkhart, a resident of Woodcrest Villa, & Willow Valley Genealogy Club. Board member, spoke about the Club's library of genealogy books. These books are stored in a closet just inside the Manor Auditorium's entrance. (There is list of the all the books on the Club's website.) Pat spoke about the categories of the books, such as Census, How to???, Foreign, Military, Reference and Specific. Several books were singled out for further comments: '"German Research Compendium", "Soldier of the Great War", "The Red Book", "Guide to Records in the National Archives" as well as 3 DVDs by Great Courses on "Discovering your Roots". While Pat was speaking Carol Fricke held up the various books so that the attendee could see what they looked like. After Pat finished her portion, Carol then spoke about various books she had on German genealogy and "Tracing your Family Tree".

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Willow Valley Genealogy Club Board
President
 Al Fulvio
 fulvio@comcast.net
Vice President
 Lesley Franconi
 ljlfranconi86@gmail.com
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 jrobin0421@aol.com
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 betsylowrey@aol.com
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 Carol Fricke
 pixfricke@gmail.com

> ### __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.

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__Nominations Committee__

George Nettleton and Lesley Franconi have been appointed as the Nominations Committee for our elections to the board of directors this year. They will nominate people for the positions of **President**, **Secretary**, and **Director of Programs**. They will announce their nominees at the April club meeting. They will call for additional nominees at the May club meeting. The election will be held in the May club meeting.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please contact George or Lesley.

We are also looking for volunteers for a Programs Committee to support the Chairperson by suggesting presentations, presenters, formats and to help contacting the presenters. Again, if you're interested or willing, contact Lesley or George.

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__Our WVGC library catalog__ As mentioned in our February talk, this 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 for signing it out (and in) when you borrow/return books.

Also are a number of items which don't really fit in our library either because we have an updated edition, or it's too limited in scope or some other reason. We've put them on the stage at our meetings for you to add to your library-one might be just what you need. Check them out, because, when they're gone, they're gone.

Speaking of the Website: You can also click on *SURNAMES* to see if any of your fellow members have included ancestors who might be in your tree. You can also add family names you have by contacting our web mistress, Carolyn Bausinger (carolyn.bausinger@gmail.com), and asking how to do that.

A second tab, *RESOURCES* lists some books some of your fellow members have. If one might be relevant to your genealogy searching, contact the member to see if you might borrow it, the member would be willing to look up what you want, or the member might bring it to the next meeting and let you browse it. A nice resource, including some items not in our library, which may be just what you were looking for.

Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter-Plus Edition: Here are three articles I thought would be of interest to you. They're from from the Feb 25, 2019 edition (all are used with Dick Eastman's permission):

Preserving Documents Digitally versus on Paper Alone

a fountain pen (not a ball point pen) and acid-free paper, then store the result in a climate controlled environment that never has a fire, flood, earthquake or other disaster, paper documents probably will last 200 or 300 years, possibly more. (When writing the document, a high stool, green eyeshade, and sleeve garters are optional.)

Another huge problem is those fires, floods, earthquakes or other disasters. They instantly destroy a lot of paper. The solution is to make duplicates of everything before the disaster and store it elsewhere, ideally storing multiple copies in multiple locations. This process is often called **L.O.C.K.S.S.** – "Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe."

Making multiple copies of paper documents is difficult, slow, and very expensive so it rarely gets done. In contrast, it requires only a few seconds to make copies of digital documents and file transfer them to distant "digital warehouses." All data center managers know how to do that and most of them do it daily, if not hourly.

When I worked in large data centers in the 1970s, we typically copied all new data to magnetic tapes daily, then put them in the back of someone's automobile and took them someplace else. I later worked for Iron Mountain, a company that has made millions by storing paper, microfilm and digital documents in remote storage facilities. You probably see Iron Mountain trucks often. I worked for the Iron Mountain division that handled off-site storage of digital information. Our software made multiple digital copies of all new information every 15 minutes and transferred it to data storage facilities around the world for safe keeping. We were not worried about any one disaster in one place... we had multiple copies of our customers' data stored in multiple countries.

Today, almost everyone stores digital data "in the cloud" for safekeeping and that has proven to work well in the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, in Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, numerous tornadoes, fires, and other disasters. In most of the recent disasters, a lot of paper was destroyed but most digital data was preserved simply because it had been backed up "off site."

Here is a short list from my newsletter about paper documents that did not last very long. Had digital duplicates been made and properly maintained, we would still have images of the documents for a few more centuries. A search on Google obviously will find many, many more articles about using digital records to

preserve information for centuries.

New Genealogy Search Engine at Kincrawler.com

Kin Crawler is a web crawler/search engine that works in a similar method as Google but with one major difference: it is constantly crawling the web looking for any pages that pertain **solely to genealogy**. Once it finds a genealogy-related web site, Kin Crawler indexes each page and puts the words or cache into a database on the Kin Crawler server. The search engine then takes whatever you type in and searches the database for matching words. It then tries to return a list of pages that best match your query.

Kincrawler.com has over 3 million pages in the index so far. These first 2 million crawl has mainly been the free content from the USGenweb, Rootsweb pages, and many other sites that are considered to be good free alternatives to using pay sites. The plan is to expand that "web crawl" to as many genealogy sites as can be identified. If you don't find what you want on Kin Crawler today, you might return in a few months and try again. By that time, Kin Crawler probably will be expanded significantly.

Kin Crawler is a non-commercial web site, started by and maintained as a personal project by Anthony Marshall. He writes, "My main hobbies are genealogy and web programming so I decided to combine the two in an attempt to make the largest 'free form' genealogy specific search engine on the internet. My main goal is to help others find their family history by creating a genealogy search that is completely free and linked to pages that are also completely free."

You might want to take a look at https://www.kincrawler.com. In fact, you first might want to read the FAQs (Frequently-Asked Questions) at https://www.kincrawler.com/FAQ1.html.

Zoho Office Suite now uses Artificial Intelligence to Provide a FREE, Powerful Alternative to Office 365

I wrote about the Zoho Office Suite more than two years ago in an article entitled Zoho Workplace: *My Favorite FREE Replacement for Microsoft Office*. Zoho Workplace is a competitor to Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, Google Docs, and similar office automation products. It also can read and write documents that were created with Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, Google Docs, and similar office automation products. (Some minor changes to fonts and formatting may occur when using files created by other programs.) Zoho Workplace works well with a Chromebook, a Windows system, a Macintosh, Linux, or even with an iPad or Android tablet.

Zoho Workplace is still my favorite free word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation suite of programs. I no longer use Microsoft Office. Instead, I prefer Zoho. Now Zoho has made major upgrades to the programs. My earlier article is still available at: https://wp.me/p5Z3-53w.

Quoting an article by Mark Hachman in the *PC World* web site:

"If you don't want to pay for Microsoft's AI-powered Microsoft Office, there are alternatives—including Zoho's free Zoho Office Suite. Zoho's alternatives to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Google Keep launch today, complete with their own intelligent features that are arguably friendlier than Microsoft's own.

"The updated, smarter Zoho Writer 5 word processor and Zoho Sheet 5 spreadsheet join Zoho Notebook, a new addition that intelligently transforms links into "cards" that pull data from the web. The suite also includes Zoho Show, a free alternative to PowerPoint. For this revision, the Zoho Office Suite includes Zia, an AI assistant that Zoho integrated into its CRM solution last year.

"Zoho does charge $3 to SMBs [Small and Medium-sized Businesses] to use the suite, and $6 per user for enterprises. If you're a single home user, you pay nothing, though you'll need to sign up for a Zoho account. All of the Zoho Office Suite apps are available on the web as well as on iOS and Android, but require an Internet connection. The exception is the new version of Writer, which is now available in an offline mode."

Not bad for a FREE product! You can read Mark Hachman's full article at: https://tinyurl.com/eogn20190221a. You can try the FREE Zoho Office Suite by starting at: https://www.zoho.com/office.

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Notes **Help:** I'm looking for short pieces about some of your positive genealogy experiences:
Favorite ancestor
A special find
Hurdling a brick wall
How DNA test helped
A "goldmine" site
My favorite internet site
Sharing my genealogy with others
Interviewing a relative
Reaching across "the pond"
Displaying a family heirloom
Making a favorite family recipe
A special holiday celebration
and any other topic you may like to share.

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<u>What's Your Genealogy Problem?</u> Now, looking at the other side: stumbling blocks. We're considering a "What's Your Problem?" presentation. The idea is to have a hands-on session (or series of sessions) to help answer questions you may have about your genealogy, such as:

The county courthouse with my ancestor's birth certificate, burned down-how do I "prove" her/his birthdate?
I need help with my genealogy program.
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?"

How do I select a good genealogy program for my computer?
I have old photos which are fading, how do to preserve them?

Do you have some problems/questions with your genealogy? Or which has been a real conundrum for you?

Let us know your thoughts on this kind of hands-on session to help answer your individual questions..
Al Fulvio, George Nettleton

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<u>LDS Family History Library</u>: 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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<u>2020 Census</u>: The US Census is recruiting people to help with the upcoming census. These are temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, and be a U.S. citizen. Check their site: https://2020census.gov/jobs

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Memoirs: At our December meeting, Don Helin encouraged us to write memoirs. For those of us who are interested, or curious about how, there may be a workshop on just that in July, We'll keep you posted with further information as we learn of it.

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Use a good website? Send us the link to pass on to other1 members.
Comments, suggestions, complaints? Contact: George Nettleton:
   george@nettletons.net