

genealogyclubwv.com

January/February 2025

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Barbara Park



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Treasurer

Dick Guttendorf



President, Jim Robinson

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Happy New Year!

Happy Valentines Day

Our Genealogy Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Spring Run Auditorium on the Lakes Campus. Be there at 1:30 for meeting others and enjoying refreshments; the meeting starts at 2. Programs for Winter/Spring 2025 are:

- January 21 Immigration Records for Genealogy - Sue Mueller APCUG via Zoom on screen
- February 18 Brick Walls - Darvin Martin
- March 18 Using DNA Test Results to improve your family tree - Donna Backus
- April 15 County Courthouses - Clay Kilgore

Meet Your Treasurer—Dick Guttendorf

Dick and his wife Mary (57 years and counting) are native Pittsburghers. Dick is an accounting graduate of St Francis College, Loretto, PA and earned a Masters degree in Finance from Penn State. He started his career as a CPA with Arthur Young & Co, one of the former” Big 8” accounting firms.

His career was as either the Chief Finance Officer or CEO of both public and private companies, initially in banking and later hi-tech – focusing on bio tech and internet technologies. Following their corporate careers, Dick and Mary were owner/ operators of a 165 slip marina on the Chesapeake Bay, having been both sailors and powerboaters for many years.

Their hobby for over 50 years was restoring and touring in their vintage Ford cars – an activity that they recently gave up. Currently their hobbies are more tactile – Mary is a quilter and Dick is a woodworker.

Dick and Mary have lived in Willow Valley at SouthPointe for 4 years. They have two children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and are very fortunate that everyone in the family lives within a 2 hour drive from Willow Valley!



Found: Hidden Family—By Barbara Park

When you have your DNA “done,” along with the map and percentages of DNA attributed to that country or area, you can choose to have your DNA compared with Ancestry’s vast database to see if you can find 2nd or 3rd cousins you could contact for more family information. I did this, and among the possible names and relationships listed, a surprise came when a “Sandra L” was listed as a “probable first cousin” among the others. A first cousin has to be the child of a sibling of a parent. I had only 2 “blood” uncles, and they had no siblings so who could this person be? She would have to be the daughter of my grandfather.

With both parents and my uncles dead, I had no one to ask. Pondering this puzzling revelation, I suddenly remembered way back in my mind that I had heard that my grandfather, my father’s father, had had a love affair, and wanted to leave my grandmother for “the other woman.” Since my grandfather did not leave my grandmother, no one ever spoke about this again.

I was able to contact this “first cousin,” who after sending many emails, discovered she was really my father’s half sister, making her my grandfather’s daughter and therefore my **Aunt**. I welcomed her to our family, and although she lived very near to me, getting her to agree to meet me took 3 years! We finally met this past fall. Although we had a wonderful first meeting, she told me that her life had been upended because, she said, “The man I thought was my father all these years was not and it was all a lie!” On my part, I had looked up to my grandfather and he had been my role model: I adored him. But now I know what my mother meant when she said, “Your Grandfather is not the man you think he is.”



The “smoking gun” photo showing my grandfather with Sandy’s mother and her family. This was in Sandy’s possession, and when she emailed it to me, I was shocked but then knew this was for real! Sandy is the child looking backward and being held in her grandfather’s arms.



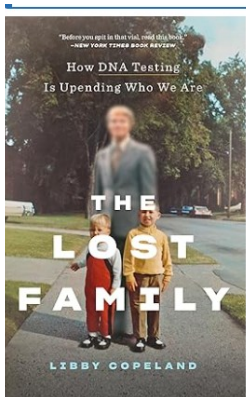
Me

Sandy, born 3 years after I was.

Her daughter came to meet me as well!

We’re planning another date with more of our families.

I urge anyone who’s considering doing a DNA test, to think about how you would handle a surprise. Read the book below and be forewarned of many scenarios, including the fact that no one told you that you were adopted!



Book : **The Lost Family**

In The Lost Family, journalist Libby Copeland investigates what happens when we embark on a vast social experiment with little understanding of the ramifications. She explores the culture of genealogy buffs, the science of DNA, and the business of companies like Ancestry and 23andMe, all while tracing the story of one woman, her unusual results, and a relentless methodical drive for answers that becomes a thoroughly modern genetic detective story. Gripping and masterfully told, The Lost Family is a spectacular book on a big, timely subject. (Critic’s Book Review)