



The Rotarian Genealogist

AUGUST 2026 | FIRST QUARTER 2026-2027

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT LUANNE NEWMAN

Dear Members,

We have passed the halfway point of 2026 and I wanted to ask — how are you doing? Are you able to find family research time? It sure is hard, isn't it? I feel like I need to call my voicemail and leave myself a message for an appointment!!

In this newsletter you will find information on upcoming speakers, both in August and November as well as resources you can use. New this quarter is Member Assistance — look for it, and [let me know](#) if I should put you and your question in there next newsletter.

We thank our LIFETIME members of FORG and all of our annual-renewing folks, too. If you have any questions about renewing, contact our team — [Tris](#) or [Sue](#) — so you won't miss anything.

THANK YOU for the surnames! You kept me hopping with those wonderful email messages that kept arriving in my inbox. Look in the next pages for that graphic.

Enjoy all of that climbing, both UP and DOWN your family tree!

Luanne

FORG CALENDAR

01 August

08 August

Newsletter Published

FORG Family Reunion/Zoom

Melanie McComb/"Mapping Ancestors on the Move"

01 November Newsletter Published

14 November FORG Family Reunion/Zoom

Anne M. Schmidt/"Reverse Genealogy"

FORG FAMILY REUNION MEETING/8 AUG

"MAPPING ANCESTORS ON THE MOVE"

From tracing ancestors on the move to understanding boundary changes to just becoming acquainted with your ancestors' lives, maps are an incredibly important resource in your family history research. In this lecture we will explore various ways in which maps can help broaden your genealogical horizons.



Photo courtesy of Melanie McComb

Melanie McComb is a Senior Genealogist at American Ancestors. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Oswego. She is an international lecturer who teaches on various topics including colonial through twentieth-century American military research, genetic genealogy, Atlantic, Canadian, African American, Jewish, and Irish genealogy. She is also an Honorary Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society. She is a blogger, known as [The Shamrock Genealogist](#).

JOIN OUR ZOOM MEETING

FORG Family Reunion—

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist/American Ancestors

"MAPPING ANCESTORS ON THE MOVE"

**08 AUGUST, 2026 19:30 London
1:30 PM Central Daylight Time/US**

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/4337626224?
pwd=elJoLzlPWkRpTTgzY2F3YlFoaztrQT09&omn=89957310072](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/4337626224?pwd=elJoLzlPWkRpTTgzY2F3YlFoaztrQT09&omn=89957310072)

Meeting ID: 433 762 6224

Passcode: 20191110

THANK YOU!



That's a wrap! We thank ALL who helped at the booth, stopped by to say hello and had their photo taken in Taipei.

The 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei was a success!. Here is a quick recap from one of our past presidents, Bill Harvey.

It's always fun to represent FORG in the House of Friendship at the Rotary International Convention. This was my 5th convention spending time in the FORG booth and as always it was a great opportunity to meet and chat with Rotarians from all over the world about family history and Rotary. We saw existing members and new prospects for membership. We learned a little about family history in countries with very few records where reliance on oral history and stories takes on even greater importance. And we met people from Iceland where the genealogy goes back 1,000 years to the first settlers of the island. Shout out and a big thank you to FORG member Dennis Wickham who helped out from time to time and enjoyed staffing a shift in the booth. And thank you to my daughter Kaitlin who came all the way from Vancouver BC to help with setup and staffing. We took a lot of photos for The Rotary Family Tree, some of which are included with this Article.



Photos courtesy of Bill Harvey of the Rotary Club of Omaha, Nebraska, USA



And be sure to mark your calendars for **The Rotary International Convention in Barcelona Spain June 26-30, 2027**. Come and experience the fun of representing FORG to the world. We'd love to have 10-12 volunteers, or more. It's an experience not to be missed.

Take a peek into the FORG booth at this fabulous event...

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

THANK YOU! (CONTINUED)



Photos courtesy of Bill Harvey



FUTURE CONVENTIONS IN THE WORKS...

2027: Barcelona, SPAIN (26-30 June)

2029: Tentatively Dubai, UAE

2028: Minneapolis, Minnesota USA (27-31 May)

2030: Tentatively Chicago, Illinois USA
(Rotary's 125th anniversary convention)

TAKING A LOOK AT MALAYSIA



Dennis Wickham
Rotary Club of Greater Clark County
Vancouver, Washington, USA

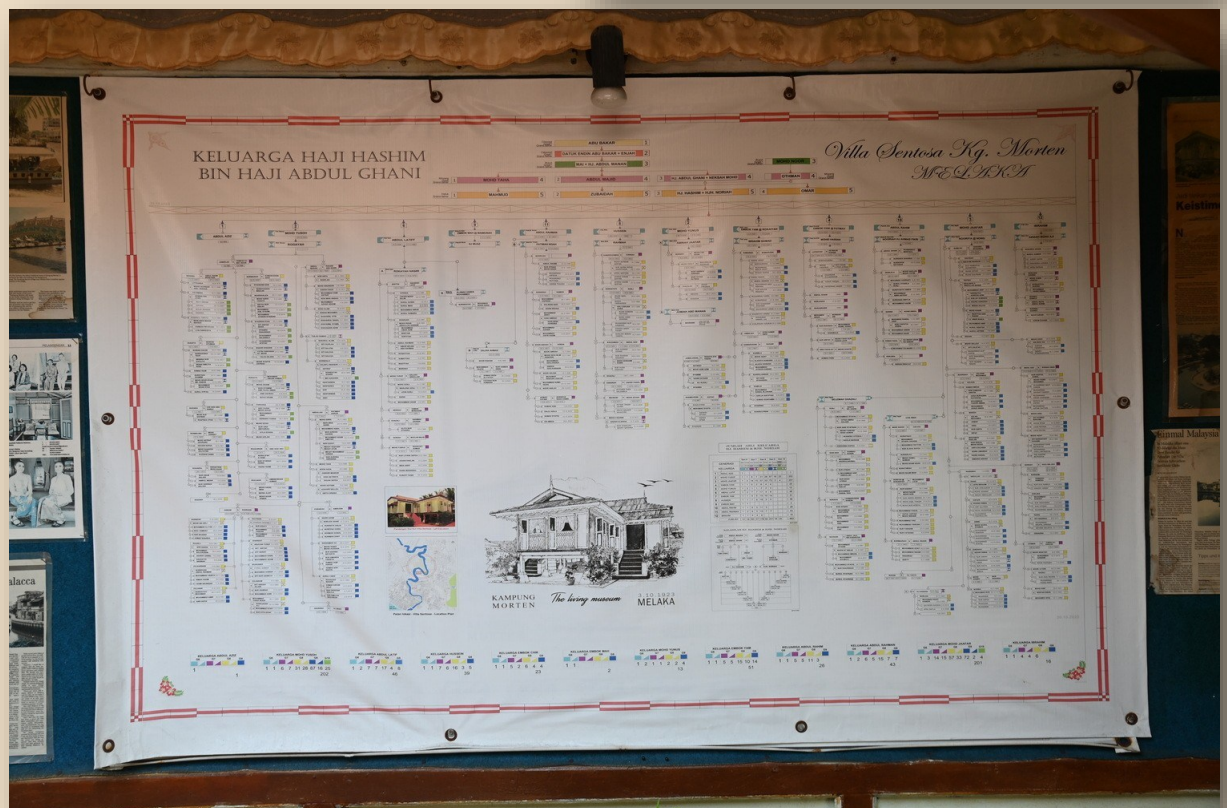
Dennis Wickham and his wife Li enjoyed the convention, continued family research, and some sightseeing.

"We visited Villa Sentosa in Melaka (also spelled Malacca) in Malaysia. The house is in a historical area and has been in the original family's possession for just over 100 years. I have attached the genealogy that they have collected which includes over 600 names. The man who took us on the tour came from a family with 9 sons and three daughters. He is 87 and his father made it to 92. It was very interesting!"



Images are of a the living room, another room with photos on the wall, and the family genealogy created for the 100th anniversary of the house (2023).

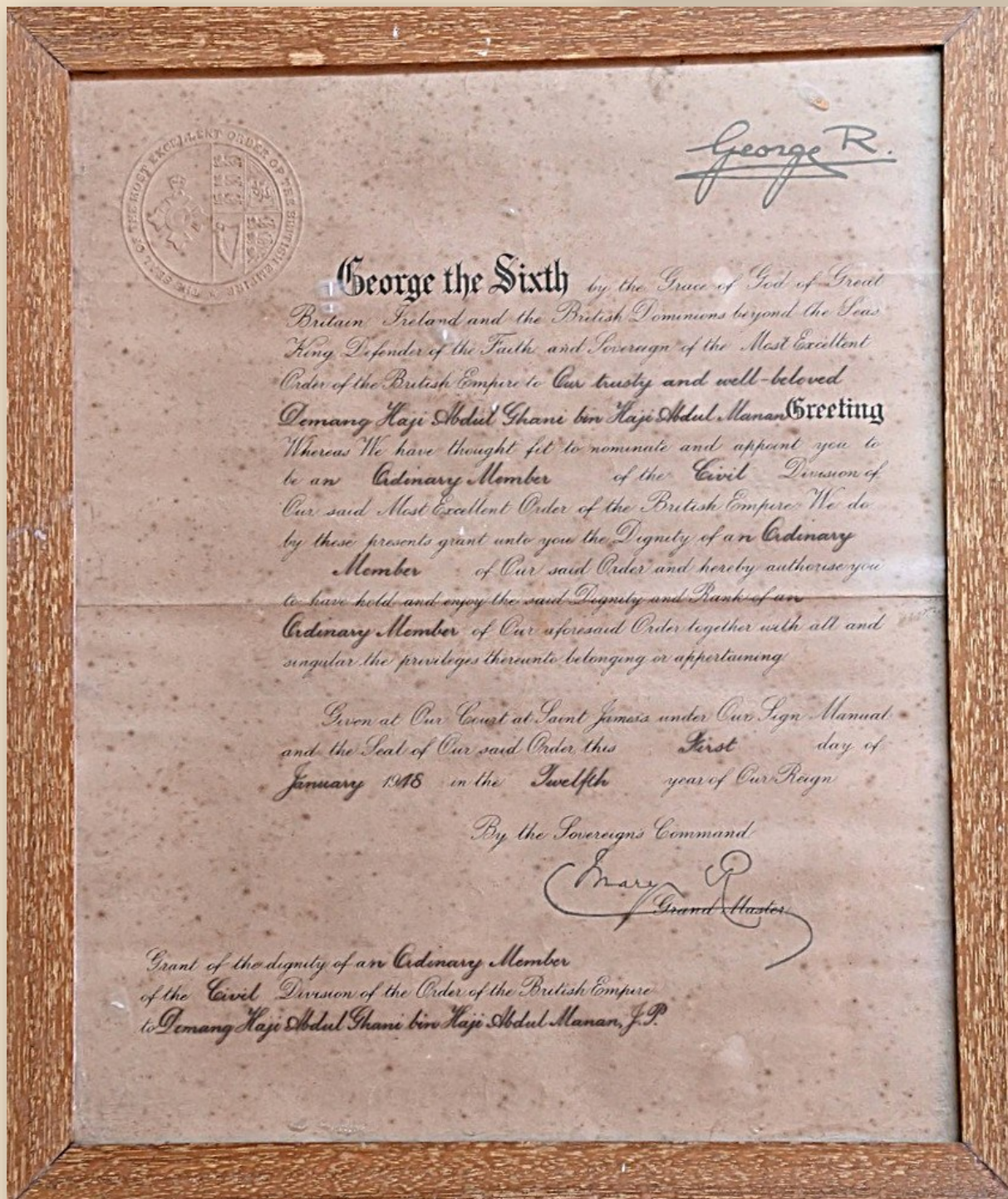
Images courtesy of Dennis Wickham



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ON PAGE 6)

TAKING A LOOK AT MALAYSIA (CONTINUED)

Images are of a photo of the man who built the house taken in 1927, one of his grandsons the tour guide. Images courtesy of Dennis Wickham

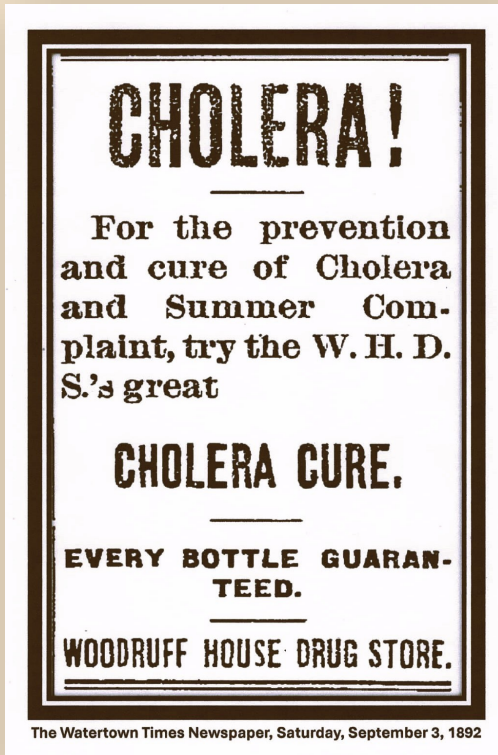


SUMMER COMPLAINT: SEVERE GASTROINTESTINAL DISTRESS KILLER IN CHILDREN



Thomas F. LaClair

Rotary Club of Clayton, New York USA



In researching one of my ancestors in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, I came across the death certificate of one of my paternal great-grandmother's sisters. The certificate stated that an infant female, Pearl Munro, daughter of Frederick Munro and Emma Running Munro, born 10 Jan 1892, in Kingston, died on 22 Aug 1892, at approximately eight months of age, in Kingston, of Summer Complaint. Not knowing what Summer Complaint was, I decided to do some research. An internet editorial from Biology Insights, Aug 2025, proved helpful in explaining the disease, and parts are used throughout this article.

"Summer complaint is a historical term for a medical condition that frequently affected populations during warmer months, named for acute diarrheal illnesses that occurred predominantly during the hot summer months, especially affecting infants and often used interchangeably with terms like summer

diarrhea or cholera infantum. The condition primarily involved severe gastrointestinal distress, characterized by symptoms such as profuse diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, and fever."

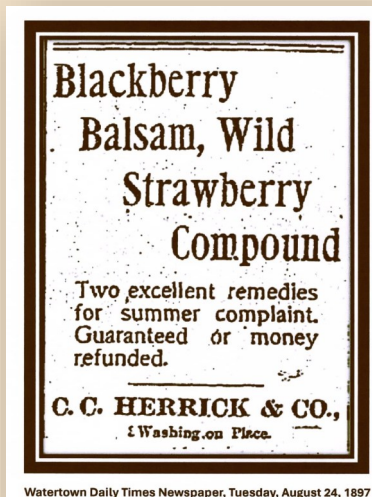
"Several factors contributed to the widespread and fatal nature of the disease. A primary cause was the bacterial contamination of food, particularly milk and other dairy products, which spoiled rapidly in the absence of refrigeration. Poor sanitation practices also played a significant role in spreading the illness. Contaminated water sources were a major vector for disease transmission. High summer temperatures further exacerbated these issues by providing optimal conditions for rapid bacterial growth in food and water, turning minor contamination into a serious health threat."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

SUMMER COMPLAINT: (CONTINUED)

Discussed in the New York Reformer Newspaper (Watertown, New York) of Jan 1851, 86 people died that year; 36 of them were children under 12. Of that, 16 died of consumption, with Summer Complaint next on the list with seven. Drownings were the third-highest killer with six.

Several drug companies touted remedies and medicines to fight off the disease. In one New York Reformer advertisement, dated in Oct 1865, "Cooper's Anti-Pain Tincture: This medicine, I believe, has not its equal in curing Cholera, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhea, Dysentery, Summer Complaint, Pain in the Stomach and bowels, Diphtheria, Pneumonia or Asthma, Croup, Cold and Coughs, Scalds, Burns, Fevers, Wounds, Bruises, Sprains, Stiff and Swollen Joints, Neuralgia, or Tic Douloureux, Sick and Nervous Headache, Pain in the side, Stitch in the Back, Cricks and Cramps, Hiccough, Heartburn, Chilblains, Painful Corns, Swellings, Old Sore, to allay Inflammation and prevent Mortification, etc. A large number may be seen by calling at the rooms of the Real Estate Agency and Employment Office, on Court Street, where this medicine is now kept, and offered for sale, by Professor L. Babbitt."



An article written just a couple of weeks after Pearl Munro's death shares discussions among residents. The Watertown Times, 10 Sep 1892, under the column called "Talk of the Day." "Contrary to the popular notion, the free use of good ripe fruit in summer does not tend to give rise to bowel trouble. It really tends to prevent it. Fruits, when rightly indulged, are easy of digestion; they promote the health of the organs which dispose of them, and keep the intestinal canal free and open. Of course, unripe or spoiled fruits are a menace, and liable to excite summer complaint; but beyond a doubt, this is far the most often caused by milk and meats which have undergone poisonous changes."

Biology Insights tells us that the advent of refrigeration in homes and throughout the food supply chain further ensured that perishable foods, especially milk, remained safe for consumption. Improvements in water purification and sewage systems drastically reduced waterborne diseases. Centralized water treatment made tap water safe to drink, and improved sanitation prevented the spread of pathogens through contaminated environments. Better overall hygiene practices, including handwashing and food preparation standards, also contributed to reducing bacterial transmission. Today, the symptoms once categorized as "summer complaint" are understood and managed as specific conditions, such as gastroenteritis or food poisoning, benefiting from modern diagnostic tools and effective treatments."

*Images courtesy of: Watertown Daily Times Advertisement, Saturday, 3 Sep 1892 and
Watertown Daily Times Advertisement, Tuesday, 24 Aug 1897*



WHAT IS YOUR "WHY"?

By Dr. Bonnie (Williams) Pendleton
Rotary Club of Canyon, Texas USA



My amazing father, Delbert Eugene Williams, was a county extension agent when I was born but went back to school for his Master's degree and ended up teaching almost every subject in high school, including 3-4 years of advanced mathematics to me and my siblings. My father was always super healthy but shocked the doctors when "someone so healthy" as my father died of a sudden heart attack when he was only 65 years old.

My father suspected but was never told he was adopted after he was born on 10 February 1922 at the University of Iowa Hospital. When he was about 3 years old in 1925, his adoptive parents who were in their 50's drove and moved my father to southern California. With 3 brothers (including my oldest brother recently needing open-heart surgery when he was 65), I thought we should know more about heart disease in my father's birth family, and so I started "collecting ancestors."

My mother's German Hufford relatives can be traced back to the 1500s in Germany, and came to America in 1729 with Alexander Mack, the founder of the German Baptists. Supposedly, my grandfather Wesley John "Doc" Hufford's great-great uncle Jake (Jacob Hufford) was one of the first to see California with Jedediah Smith (in about 1821).

My mother's mother's Hazleton relatives can be tracked to 1400s and earlier to the 300s in England. My great-great grandfather Nathaniel Samuel Hazleton and great-great grandmother Melissa Ann Wiswell owned the Flower Mound near Dallas in 1844 and Long Prairie in Denton County, Texas, in 1845.

When he was 35 years old, my great-great grandfather, Nathaniel Samuel Hazleton, was elected wagon master to lead a wagon train of 150 wagons and 180 single men to California in about 1852. Not only did no one die on the way to California, but one woman had a baby under a wagon in Tucson and added one more person to the wagon train! My mother's ancestors settled in Tehama and Shasta counties, California, where my relatives have lived since the early 1850s.

Long story short: I had an amazing father who was adored by his older parents who did not have any babies who survived. My father was raised well by his older parents and their relatives in southern California.

I think it is important to know one's own medical history, especially unique kinds of heart attacks from which my father died, and which my brother survived open-heart surgery. I enjoy "collecting ancestors" and their interesting family history.

In the back of a birth record book for Johnson County, Iowa, I found a 10 February 1922 birth record listing a baby boy named "Delbert Brandt" born to Bessie Brandt, which I assume must be his mother, especially considering that my father's birth name and adopted name and birth dates were Delbert and 10 February 1922.

FORG "GATHERED & SHARED"

Something new in 2026 is our FORG
"Gathered & Shared" newsletter column. This section will feel: curated,
not promotional, scholarly but welcoming, shared knowledge
among peers worldwide. [Send us](#) any suggestions. (graphic courtesy ChatGPT)

➡ **AUGUST 22, 2026 (VIRTUAL)**

**A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME... USING NICKNAMES TO FIND
YOUR ANCESTOR PRESENTED** by Sacramento Public Library

(FREE) <https://engage.saclibrary.org/event/16000155>

➡ **SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 (HYBRID/SD)**

**PHOTOS & FAMILY HEIRLOOMS: PRESERVING VISUAL
HISTORY** presented by Beadle County Genealogy Group

(FREE) <https://beadlecountygenealogygroup.com/meetings>

➡ **NOVEMBER 5, 2026 (VIRTUAL)**

**7 ESSENTIAL STEPS FOR STARTING GERMAN GENEALOGY WITH
KATHERINE SCHOB** presented by St. Clair County Genealogical Society

(FREE) <https://stclair-ilgs.org/events/>

Above links Courtesy of Conference Keeper

➡ **ROOTSTECH VIDEOS (VIRTUAL)**

JULY LIVE WEBINARS

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/events/july-live-webinars>

Courtesy of FamilySearch.org



"In the end, we'll all become stories."

- Margaret Atwood

**"We are the ancestors of the future, and what we do now will
have an impact."** **- Luisah Teish**

Graphics created by ChatGPT

WHO ARE WE RESEARCHING?

Thank you!



Graphic created by ChatGPT

We asked and you delivered! You received an email asking for two surnames that you are researching. I promised you a graphic. Lesson learned here. They say ChatGPT may not be accurate and, sure enough, when I gave them all the names, they left eleven off. (Thank you, Bud Newman, for proofreading this with me). Where there is a will, there is a way, when further pushed, and they came through after I asked for the foundation stones above.

In any case, this tree and it's base are made up of YOU! Do you see any familiar names?



“MEMBER ASSISTANCE? YES, I NEED SOME!”

From time to time, our members have a question, a request, or want to connect. Here is the “Who” and the “What” that arrived in our inbox recently:

“How might I find members in the United Kingdom? I’m heading on a tour of the British Isles in a month.”

Barbara Jones
Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission, Kansas USA
revbejkcmo@gmail.com



“Is there anyone specific in our group with experience researching unknown biological parents? I posted a comment on one of FORG's Facebook posts about a friend I'm working with to try to figure out who his biological dad is/was, along with building his paternal tree. His mother has no clue who she conceived her son with (it was not a consensual situation, and it was the only time she saw the person).”

Cheryl Rosen
Hudson Rotary Club, Hudson, Massachusetts, USA
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA
cherylr@tiac.net

Graphic created by Microsoft Copilot; Member photos courtesy of each member, as listed.