

Notes from our President

On to Houston!

Greetings Fellow Rotarian Genealogists!

As I write this, Gretchen and I are preparing for our trip to Houston next month for the first live Rotary International convention since Hamburg. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there. If you are in Houston, stop by our booth in the House of Friendship and say hello.

With spring upon us and summer soon to follow, the minds of many genealogists turn to travel. What better time to have Paula Stewart Warren speak to us about Successful Genealogy Trips? We are fortunate to have Paula as a speaker and I hope all of you can join us for her presentation. Thanks to Sue Beety for arranging this meeting. See more about Paula below in this newsletter.

This will be my last newsletter column as President of your Fellowship. I am pleased to hand over the reins to Sue Weber and our incoming Board who will provide excellent leadership into the future. It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I am proud of what the Fellowship and Board have accomplished:

- Instituting quarterly virtual member meetings which allow our Fellowship to stay active throughout the year, even when we return to the era of live conventions.
- Establishing a regular quarterly schedule for this newsletter.
- Expanding and improving our website to include more information for our members.
- Getting publicity by appearing in *Rotary Magazine* and the *Rotary Service Blog*, which has helped us to continue increasing our membership.
- Revising our Bylaws to comply with updated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion standards of Rotary International (to be voted on at our May meeting).

Thanks to all of you who have participated in our meetings, contributed to the newsletter, the website or otherwise help to further our Fellowship.

Special thanks to: Lawrence Tristram (Tris) for being our ever-faithful webmaster, Zoom master, and all-around tech expert; Jenny Kendrick for bringing our newsletter to life every quarter; all our Board for their faithful service; and Sue Beety, our Secretary, for everything she does to keep our Fellowship moving forward.

I will continue to serve on the Board for the next couple of years as Past President, and I look forward to being an active member of our Fellowship for many years to come.

Happy Hunting and Best Wishes,

Bill

PS Our daughter got married this past weekend—adding to our family tree!



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FORG Members Annual Meeting—May 14, 2022 7:30 pm London Time 1:30 Central Time *Special Speaker Paula Stuart-Warren*

The Art of Successful Genealogical Research Trips

Whether you travel to the ancestral “old country,” or just to a nearby county courthouse or library, one of the delights of genealogy can be a successful research trip. How can you make your “on the road” research yield both results and an enjoyable travel experience? Can your trip preparation lead to family information even if you never actually make the trip? What needs to be done when the journey is over? This session details steps both online and off to help you answer those questions. They join travel-tested experience with Albert Einstein’s advice that “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.” You don’t have to be a genius to combine these sensible steps with your spirit of adventure to help make your genealogical journeys memorable and rewarding! And this session has some humorous twists and turns to show that Murphy’s Law can affect a research trip.

Paula Stuart-Warren, Certified Genealogist®, FMGS, FUGA

Paula is an internationally recognized genealogical educator, researcher, and consultant focusing on unusual resources, manuscripts, methodology, and analyzing records. She also specializes in Native American research, the WPA, and railroad records. She spends extensive research time at libraries, courthouses, libraries, state archives, historical societies, and at various locations of the National Archives. She has researched at the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Archives, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. She was a long-time course coordinator and instructor for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and currently the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh. She has presented courses for Research Write Connect Academy, Ancestry Academy, Family Tree University, and continues to present virtual seminars and webinars across the U.S. and in Canada. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, a former officer of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and a former president of the Northland Chapter of APG. She has been a Board-Certified Genealogist since 1988.



She is descended from eight ancestral countries and has researched family connections across the U.S. and Canada. She currently has her own educational website and blog at <http://genealogybypaula.com> and is enthusiastic about sharing knowledge and continuing education.

Prior to our speaker, we will be voting on updates to our bylaws and Director Positions.

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88584963479?pwd=dm9zMTdDc1hKaEtpNS80ME14TGZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 433 762 6224 Passcode: 20191110

Members, In order to have a clear recording, please stay muted unless you are asked to unmute. Thank you.

FORG Calendar—UK Times

14 May	7:30 pm	Annual Member Meeting
4-8 June		Houston Convention
1 July		New Rotary Year
16 July		Membership Meeting

[Check out this link to easily convert times to your time zone.](#)



Free Cheat Sheet – Genealogy Research Trip Packing List & Favorite Recipe

Thomas MacEntee, July 2021



Is this the Summer or Fall when you finally make that genealogy research trip? With many of the COVID Pandemic restrictions easing, more and more people are traveling, period.

For genealogists, many of us travel to far away archives, libraries, and even cemeteries to advance our research. While I don't have a trip planned in the near future, I know I would want to go back to Ulster and Dutchess counties in New York where many of my ancestors lived. And I'd love to visit my 9th great-grandfather's house which was built abt 1699 and is STILL STANDING in New Paltz, New York!

I'm always curious in hearing tips and tricks for research trips from other genealogists. What should I bring for cemetery research? An umbrella? A first aid kit? A gravestone cleaning kit?

To get started, click here to obtain my 2-page PDF cheat sheet [Genealogy Research Trip Packing List](#).

Galaktoboureko (Greek Orthodox Easter Favorite)

Means "milk pie" and is a semolina custard wedged between phyllo and soaked in syrup.



Syrup

2 cups sugar
1 cup water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Custard

4 cups whole milk
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup fine semolina
3 1/2 tablespoon cornstarch
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla

6 eggs

1/2 cup sugar

12 sheets phyllo dough (defrosted)

1 stick butter, melted

1. Prepare sugar syrup ahead of time and let cool in refrigerator. Bring water and sugar to a boil over medium heat. Lower heat to simmer for five minutes. Remove from heat and add honey, lemon, and cinnamon.
2. In a large saucepan, bring milk and cream to a slight boil (do not scorch). Sift semolina, sugar and cornstarch together then SLOWLY add mixture to boiling milk/cream. Stir and continue to cook on low until mixture is thick. Remove from heat and let cool for 15 minutes.
3. In a bowl, beat eggs and sugar until fluffy and pale yellow, about 10 minutes. Set aside.
4. Fold egg mixture, in small parts, into warm custard. If custard is too hot, it will cook the eggs! Once incorporated, set aside.
5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
6. Using 13 x 9 x 2 pan, brush with melted butter. Take one sheet of phyllo, place in pan. Most sheets are 13 x 17 so you can't quite fold it in half but fold the excess over on to the sheet. Butter with melted butter. Repeat with 6 more sheets and butter, alternating the "flap" so that the phyllo is even.
7. Spread custard mixture over phyllo dough.
8. Continue to add remaining five sheets of phyllo, brushing each with butter.
9. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until top phyllo is browned. Remove from oven and IMMEDIATELY and SLOWLY pour sugar syrup over the galaktoboureko.

Storage: you can refrigerate the galaktoboureko but you don't need to as long as you eat it within 2-3 days. If refrigerated, bring to room temperature before serving.

Death of Member Barbara Kathlin Ashenhurst 1946-2022

May 3, 1946—April 7, 2022



Member Barbara Ashenhurst's husband notified President Bill of her passing. Barbara joined our fellowship at the Toronto Convention. Her obituary reads in part:

Barbara passed away peacefully at home in her 76th year after an eight-year struggle with COPD... Barbara will be mourned globally, as during the 90s, she was the "mother" to 15 exchange students from eight different countries... In 2008, she started her new hobby of genealogy, generating reams of ancestral data on the immediate and extended family lineages. This genealogy interest, along with the hosting of foreign exchange students, was the cause for a lot of the world travelling she and Peter did, eventually covering some 20 countries.

[To view her entire obituary, click here.](#)

Member Bio



Luanne (Gatti) Newman has been a Rotarian since 2002. Part of the Carol Stream, Illinois (USA) club in District 6140 (the home District), Luanne is a Past President who founded their Rotary-sponsored Community Food Drive in 2009 which is still in place today. Club Webmaster and Programs chair, Luanne enjoyed this active club for sixteen years before relocating to the Houston area and joining the League City, Texas (USA) club in 2018. She takes the "Service Above Self" motto to heart.

A family historian at heart, Luanne began "climbing her family tree" in 1989 and that led her to discover her cousins on visits to Italy, Germany, and Poland. "This hobby has had an amazing effect on my life in a social, lingual, and even medical sense."

A leader in the Chamber of Commerce industry for 16 years, Luanne now splits her time between developing business for a MedSpa and creating marketing and candy for the Newman's business, Amazing Grace Gifts.

Please send your favorite (second favorite, cause FORG is you fav!) genealogy resource or society with a short explanation. We will share them in the next newsletter .

My current favorite is: Italian Genealogical Group, P.O. Box 626 , Bethpage, New York, 11714-0626 Their website is Italiangen.org.

I receive a paper newsletter every month with good information. I find something interesting in every issue.

My other favorite is WSGS.org. That is the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. They have a quarterly newsletter for members and a monthly free webinar. If you are a member you can access several years of monthly webinars to watch when you choose.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE "go-to" site?



Re-Check Finding Aids and Collections

Though some archival collections never change their contents, many do. Finding aids will often provide information on when the institution accessed the collection materials and subsequent additions. For extensive/broad collections like maps, funeral programs, newspapers, photographs, vital records, and others, they often grow as more material becomes available or donated — whether we are talking digital or on-the-ground materials. Because of this, re-check the finding aids and collection contents periodically or as you resume or start a project for which the collection might be helpful. Do NOT assume that it has not "expanded" since you last checked it out. Wouldn't you hate to eventually learn that something you sought was where you thought it had been, but you hadn't bothered to re-research the finding aid and/or the collection itself?

By **Diane L. Richard**, *Internet Genealogy* author

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Finding Ancestors through Descendant's Stomachs

If I was playing a word association game, and was given the word "family," the image that would be conjured is one involving food and lively chatter around a table. At such gatherings is where I first heard intergenerational mutterings of our family history, particularly my paternal Italian roots. In the spirit of keeping traditions alive, holidays tend to involve meals, or pieces thereof, with origins in ancestral homelands and kitchens of old. Let these foods serve as the conversation starter for genealogical discovery. Ask the preparers for recipes, and more importantly, where the recipes originated and from whom they were passed down. Family meals, albeit occasionally boisterous, are among the most intimate avenues towards learning about heritage. The ingredients used are likely tied to forbears' landscapes, as are seasonings, preservation methods, cooking techniques, and even the meal presentation. Smells and tastes evoke memories, ripening the atmosphere for stories. Just don't talk with your mouth full!

By **Joe Grandinetti**, *Internet Genealogy* author

The New York City Historical Vital Records Project



The New York City Municipal Archives is undertaking a mass digitization project to provide online access to 13.3 million historical birth, death, and marriage records.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Conferences, Classes, Webinars

[Conference Keeper](#) is an amazing site to find genealogical conferences, webinars, etc. It lists itself as "the most complete collection of Genealogy events online!" Sign up for their newsletter, and you will always have up-to-date information on both in person and virtual conferences free and for a cost.

Online Courses

[Family Search](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

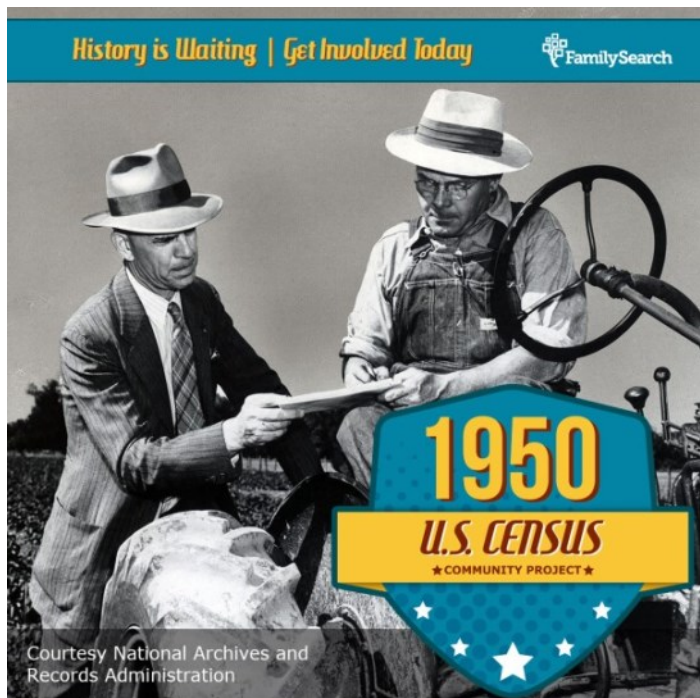
[Genealogy Guys](#)

[Legacy](#)

[My Heritage](#)

[National Institute for Genealogical Studies](#)

Family Search 1950 US Census Project



The 1950 US Federal Census was released on April 1, 2022. The Census Community Project will enlist an army of volunteers to help publish a free searchable index of all 151 million individuals included in this valuable record. Volunteers will review and improve an automated index created by Ancestry using handwriting recognition technology to ensure that it is complete and accurate.

[For more information and to sign up to volunteer, click here.](#)

[To see how much of the census has been indexed by state, click here.](#)



Habits of Highly-Organized Genealogists: Your Ultimate Guide



This article from the Family Tree Magazine website was written by Dana McCullough. Below are the numbered recommendations. [Click here to see the original article.](#)

Organizing our genealogy is a challenge for many of us because searching for ancestry information is more fun than logging it and because our brains all work differently. So one organization style will not work for everyone. Below is the ultimate list of reader-shared advice for getting and staying organized:

1. Clear your calendar.
2. Remember the big picture.
3. Designate an organized workspace.
4. Visualize success.
5. Color-code folders and files.
6. Don't waste money on unnecessary organizational supplies.
7. Bring order to books.
8. Take charge of paper files.
9. Designate a mystery-photo folder.
10. Manage your magazines.
12. Go digital.
13. Stick to a single filing system.
14. Use your filing system for emails, too.
15. Give your email messages a descriptive subject.
16. Keep a "to file" basket on your desk or a shelf and schedule regular times to file those papers.
17. Take advantage of tech tools.
18. Rein in your favorite websites.
19. Keep a notebook by your computer.
20. Catalog your family heirlooms.
21. Start a research log or journal.
22. Keep a separate log to track online research.
23. Maintain a similar list of message-board postings.
24. Assemble a research travel binder.
25. Create a kit for onsite research.
26. Keep an updated research to-to list.
27. Establish an organization routine.

Lemon Bar Squares

Ingredients

Crust

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar

Topping

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 2 teaspoons lemon rind
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

1. Combine crust ingredients and press into an 8"x8" pan.
2. Bake for 15 minutes at 375 degrees.
3. Mix topping ingredients and spread over the hot crust.
4. Bake for 25 minutes at 325 degrees or until nearly set.
5. Let cool in the pan and then cut into squares.

Bruce Richardson, Board Member—This recipe comes from his sister.



Chocolate Nut Pie (Derby Pie Clone)

- 1/2 cup margarine or butter melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup cane sugar
- 3/4 cup English Walnuts
- 1/2 cup flour
- 3/4 cup chocolate chips
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten

1. Mix ingredients in the order given.
2. Pour into unbaked 9-inch pie shell.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 30 minutes.



To make this a true Kentucky Derby dessert you MUST include 1 jigger/2 tbsp. Kentucky bourbon. The crust can be partially baked before the filling goes in. This pie tastes like a chocolate chip cookie with a touch of bourbon. Very rich. Good with ice cream or whipped cream. (The Derby Pie name is copyrighted by the originators of the pie.) Serve with a Mint Julip the other Derby favorite.

Sue Beety's husband was the police chief in their city for 24 years. One of the great training perks was the 1988 International Police Chiefs Conference in Louisville, KY. The Host Chiefs night was at famous Churchill Downs racetrack. Home of the Kentucky Derby every May. The dessert served was Derby Pie.

Sue Beety, Co-Founder and Secretary

Grouping DNA Matches

The process of clustering or grouping your DNA matches into genetic networks is an essential part of using DNA for genealogy research. This class will introduce the concept of clustering and walk you through the process of grouping your own DNA matches.

The Clustering Process

After taking a DNA test, most people have thousands of DNA matches. Clustering is the process of grouping DNA matches by the ancestor or ancestral line on which they appear to relate. Creating clusters will allow you to organize your matches and then focus on the matches that will help solve your research goal.

To create a cluster, follow the steps below:

1. Choose a match with a known relationship.
2. View shared or in-common-with matches.
3. Create a cluster; name the cluster for the known, common ancestor.
4. Add matches shared between you and the known match to the cluster.
5. Repeat.
6. As you identify the relationships between you and each match, view shared matches and add to the appropriate cluster.

Clustering Tools and Resources

As you start clustering your matches, consider how some of the following tools and resources might help.

Color Coding: Ancestry DNA and MyHeritage DNA let users assign matches to groups which are identified by a name and color. Currently, users can create up to 24 different groups. Carefully plan how to use these groups to create clusters. One popular method is to assign a different color to each parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent. As matches are identified as belonging to these ancestors (either by determining a relationship or through share or in-common-with matches), they are added to the group.

AutoClusters: Some websites will build clusters for you. Auto-Clusters are available from MyHeritage, Genetic Affairs, GEDMatch, and DNAGedcom. Note that AutoClustering is usually a Tier 1 or subscription service.

Leeds Method: The Leeds Method is a process of clustering your matches by grandparent. Learn more about the Leeds Method at <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/> or <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/leeds-method>.

Spreadsheets: When working with DNA matches, it may be necessary to create your own lists of clusters and matches using spreadsheets. You may choose to create a new tab for each cluster or follow the Leeds Method. Spreadsheets are also great tools for building clusters of matches across companies.