

The Rotarian Genealogist

NOVEMBER, 2022 | SECOND QUARTER 2022-2023

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Notes from our President

As this is our last newsletter for year 2022, I can't help but look back on the year and think about what was exciting in the world of genealogy. Well, I think the answer is obvious, the release of the 1950 census. This new release has a lot to offer and will hopefully prove to be a useful resource to many. I would love to hear from you about how you benefited from it during your family research. Looking back on 1950, I found some fun facts.

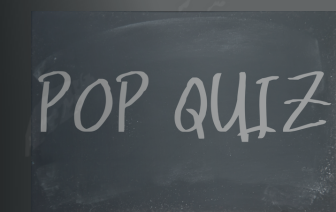
1950

2,499,322,157 world population (today 7,975,105,156)

In the US

- a gallon of gas .18 cents (today \$3.92)
- a new home \$8,450 (today \$361,500)
- a new car \$1,510 (today \$50,000)
- loaf of bread \$0.12 (today \$2.80)
- average annual income \$3,210 (today \$51,160)
- postage stamp \$0.03 (today \$0.58)
- Harry S Truman was the President (#33)
- TV: Ed Sullivan, Candid Camera, and The Lone Ranger
- Snoopy and Charlie Brown and the rest of the beloved Peanuts gang were introduced to the world in 1950.

After finding these fun facts, I have now decided to add them to my genealogy records by decade just for fun.



Besides names and pictures, what else do you add to your family genealogy records? Be the first to answer this question in the chatroom on our next family reunion on November 14th and win a prize! (BOD members not eligible).

FORG Family Reunion Meeting



1950 Census

Nov 19, 2022 7:30 London Time

7:30 pm London Time / 1:30 Central Time / 2:30 Eastern Time

The 1950 Federal Census was released in April 2022. This program will explore the census and the census source records that provide information for the tabulated data. We shall look at ways to research your ancestors, your family or yourself in this first census since the end of World War II.

Discussions on how to find information and use the data in your genealogy research are part of this presentation. Our overall goal is to find out what is new in this specific census, what information to expect to find in it, and how we can use it in our research.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 881 8539 3090

Passcode: 418478

Dr. Alfred S. Brothers, Jr.

Dr. Al Brothers, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, has been involved in exploring his family's rich history from pre-revolutionary war and revolutionary war times since he was a teenager. Family stories intrigued him about ancestors living in Canada (Nova Scotia), New England, Virginia, and Washington DC and how they worked, moved, migrated; and immigrated. His retirement from the United States Air Force in 1986 provided him the opportunity to relocate to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and utilize the resources of the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center and fantastic genealogy research staff. He has been actively engaged in formal genealogy research and genealogy education ever since.

Al is a charter member of FORG and attends RI conventions regularly.

He is a founding member and Vice President of the African American Genealogy Society of Fort Wayne (AAGSFW) where he conducts monthly workshops on topics germane to the society and its members. He is also a member of the Allen County Genealogy Society whose focus is on Indiana and Allen County research with special emphasis on England, Germany, and other European countries from where their members' ancestors immigrated.

He is a faculty member of MAAGI (Mid-West African American Genealogy Institute) which conducts a 4-day genealogy Institute at the Allen County Public Library in July each year. He conducts an all-day Military Genealogy session whose topics range from the Revolutionary War to World War II and the African American experience and service in them.

Al has been actively conducting Genealogy research for over 40 years with travels to Canada, Virginia, Washington DC, and many Massachusetts cities and towns investigating his family's roots and history.

He is a member of the Anthony Wayne Rotary Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana, joining in 1989. He became club president 2011-2012, and then District 6540 District Governor 2019-2020.

Member Bio - Alan K. Okinaka



Lived my entire life in Hawaii, except for three years in various stations with the U.S. Army, a year and a half on the tiny island of Kwajalein, and two years with a telecommunications company in Stamford, CT. It was fun and exciting to have experienced places outside of Hawaii, but the phrase "No place like home!" sits well with my thoughts of where I want to be.

People say that I have a RIFT brain. RI for right and FT for left and this is probably why I sought education and earned degrees in Fine Arts and Electrical Engineering. Mentally sitting on the extreme ends of the spectrum is amazingly comfortable as I try to merge logic and intuitive thinking in everything I worked on.

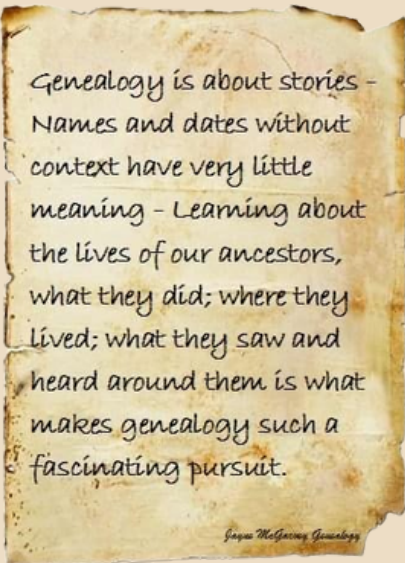
Physically, I have concluded that I seek to do things that will enable me to see my inner self. As a Boy Scout, I anxiously waited for the next outing to hike and camp. After scouting, my hiking continued until a few years ago when the disease of the pandemic and age modified my outings. Stationed in Okinawa, I studied the martial art of karate and earned the rank of ni-dan, second-degree black belt, in the Shorin Ryu style.

A wonderful marriage of 54 years was blessed with two sons, who gave us a windfall by being financially independent. I am constantly thanking them for raising great grandchildren. Three and a half years ago, my wife died, and accepting her death was a roller coaster ride. I am grateful for family and friends who tried to bring normalcy to my life.

Volunteering started when I was a Boy Scout and this continues today as a member and board member of various business chambers of commerce, Rotary, community associations, and not-for-profit organizations. Trying hard not to have an idle mind or hands, so the devil will not have any work.

After moving five times, I am settled to live on Hawai'i Island for the rest of my life. This island is also called the Big Island because it is larger than twice the size of all the other islands combined. With twenty-three different climates to contend with, living here is fun and interesting.

Often, I am asked why I am interested in genealogy, and I confess that I do not have a serious answer that a professional genealogist would find interesting. Like places I have lived and experiences I have had, I find it fun and interesting to peek into my ancestry and see if I can boast or blame my strengths and shortcomings on those before me. So far, nothing of significance or surprise has leaped into my life and even if this happened, nothing would change because for me genealogy is fun and interesting.



Identifying People in Photographs: Genealogy Enhances Biography

By Charter Member Melinde Lutz Byrne, CG, FASG

Skillful genealogy and detailed biography can weave a compelling story when paired with an image containing needed clues. If the picture contains three people or more, much can be rediscovered with some simple steps.

Who Was Alyce Hall?

In the 2010s, Temple University professor LeAnn Erickson developed a film entitled “Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of World War II.” LeAnn was almost too late. Hidden for decades, the contributions of these brilliant women only began to surface after many were already gone.

Among the young women who had filled mathematical calculation jobs at the Moore School of Engineering outside Philadelphia, were a pair of teenage twins who remembered events seventy years previously. The elderly sisters, Doris Polsky and Shirley Melvin, shared many details and one very special picture. Without that picture, a significant aspect of the Top Secret Rosies would have been lost.

This photograph’s copyright could not be acquired for use here (the two owners of the print are both deceased and their estates could not be contacted before press time), but it is widely available on the internet, [including, with the compliments of SWE, pages 26-30 here.](#)

The black and white image shows ten smiling young women standing outside a massive marble building. The sisters and several other survivors in the image recalled that the occasion was a farewell dinner. They had planned to celebrate in a particular Philadelphia restaurant but were denied service because one of their number was not totally white. They took their business elsewhere.

Of the ten women, one was a mystery. Surviving informants had faint recollections – her name was Alyce Hall, and unlike the rest of them, she might have been married and may have had a young son.

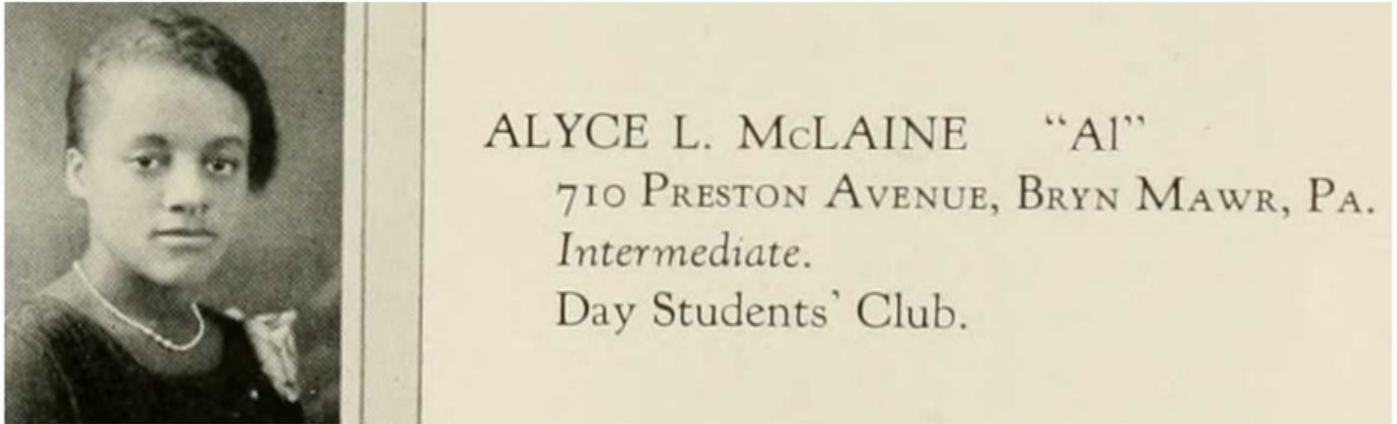
After years of sporadic and fruitless search, Dr. Erickson asked a journalist to connect Alyce Hall to an identity. In 2013 the journalist asked a genealogist.

Assumptions and Evidence

In 1942 the women brought in to replace men and calculate bombsite algorithms for the U.S. Army were all mathematical geniuses. They were all young, white, and all unmarried. They were from all over the country and lived in a dormitory-like arrangement. These contextual clues, except the genius part, proved inapplicable to Alyce Hall.

Keeping the genius part, it would be expected that Alyce would be well known as a math prodigy, was likely college-educated, and was working or teaching in the sciences. Adding that she was not completely white, meant additional things were in play.

Alyce Hall in 1928 College Yearbook



Ancestry.com, U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900-2016, Pennsylvania, West Chester County, West Chester University, 1928, page 77, Alice M. McLaine; behind paywall at < https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1388374385:1265?_phsrc=5ml112&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Ann+M&gsln=McHale&ml_rpos=1&queryid=55ba1e2de0c85332841f7ebf9ff6cec5 >; accessed 3 October 2022.

Study the slender, petite woman in the photograph. Alice has a quality of quiet self-possession as she stands in front and slightly away from the others. Alyce might be older than the others.

Another thing that might differ between Alyce and the other Top Secret Rosies—they may not have eaten together before. The women went to a restaurant without considering that they were going somewhere that was whites only. Potentially, this could also mean that Alyce was not living in the dormitory, either. Maybe the speculation that she was married and had a child was correct.

One Candidate Stands Out

From a genealogical point of view, one source was going to be the most promising to help find Alyce Hall—the 1940 U.S. census. A particularly useful column in that census’ enumeration asked the level of education accomplished for every adult. There were more than a thousand women named Alyce or Alice Hall in that census, fewer women of color had that name, and adding a college education was even rarer. Only one Alyce Hall, of color, was a C4 (College, four years). Not only was there just one such person, she lived an easy commute from the Moore School, with a husband and a young son.

Hall, Marvin R	Head	M	Mar	31	M	No	H	9	Georgia
— Alice	Wife	F	Mar	32	M	No	C4	70	Pennsylvania
— Marvin R Jr	Son	M	Mar	6	S	No	0		Pennsylvania
Beaco, Ethel	Judge	F	Mar	38	M	No	7	7	Maryland
— Marquet	Judge	F	Mar	12	S	Yes	4	4	Maryland

1940 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Haverford Township, enumeration district 23-82, sheet 3B, 731 Buck Lane, Marvin R. Hall household; microfilm publication T627, roll m-t0627-03492, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

At Dr. Erickson's numerous speaking engagements at least one audience member attempted to locate this Alyce Hall, without success. The 1940 census was not made public until April 2012, so it's perfectly calibrated question's answers for this problem were impossible to leverage.

Unfortunately, though this Alyce had lived a long life, she died a full decade before the research was done to include her in the storied Top Secret Rosies. Alyce's obituary reflected just what a remarkable woman she had been:

Sources used in writing this article:

Interviews

Melinde Lutz Byrne, genealogist, to BeWandaA, Upper Marlboro, Maryland; 23 November 2013. This relative of Alyce's has a photo archive of Alyce's ancestors back four generations.

Seabright McCabe, journalist, to [private], granddaughter of Alma, November and December, 2013. This descendant had memories and family photographs of Alyce.

_____, to LeAnn Erickson, director, Temple University; November 2013-January 2014. It was LeAnn's interest in locating and identifying all these skilled women mathematicians that led to this investigation of Alyce.

Publications

Pauline Pinard Bogaert, "Gatherings. The Vance-McLaine clan gathers for the 56th reunion of the family," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 12 July 1995, page 82, column 1.

Virginia DeBolt, Old Ain't Dead, 8 February 2019, "Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII," post at <
<https://oldaintdead.com/top-secret-rosies-the-female-computers-of-wwii/> >

Yvonne Latty, "Alyce McLaine Hall, talented in Math," *Philadelphia Daily News* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 20 November 2003, page 61, columns 1 and 2.

Seabright McCabe, "Finding Top Secret Rosie Alyce Hall," *Society of Women Engineers Magazine*, Winter 2014, 26-30.

Documentary

LeAnn Erickson, director, "Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII," Public Broadcasting Service, released 1 November 2010. Six of the surviving "Rosies" participated in the documentary.

DEATHS

Alyce McLaine Hall, talented in math

By **YVONNE LATTY**
latty@phillynews.com

ALYCE LOUISE McLaine Hall was a brilliant woman. "She was a 4-10 dynamo," her niece, Lois Savin, said. "She would have been a millionaire and famous if she did all she did then at this time."

A talented mathematician, Hall used her skills to help the government during World War II. As a high school math teacher, she made math exciting and interesting to her students.

She was always taking classes and improving her knowledge. Hall was an inspiration to her family who, because of her example, never stopped learning.

She died Friday of natural causes. She was 98 and lived in a King of Prussia nursing home, but lived in Bryn Mawr and Ardmore most of her life.

Born in West Philadelphia, she moved to Bryn Mawr when she was a child. She graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1927 and what was then West Chester State Teachers College in 1929. She taught in the Darby Township schools and later in the Philadelphia schools.

During World War II, she taught math at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Department of Defense Test Center in Maryland.

"They came after her because she was such a talented person in mathematics," Savin said.

She assisted in the design of the ENIAC computer, one of the first computers invented, when she worked at the University of Pennsylvania.

She also held many positions in the federal government in facilities in Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

After World War II, she returned to the Philadelphia schools as a math teacher and department head. She worked for many years at Strawberry Mansion Junior High.

Hall was a very creative math teacher.

"She would teach children to knit and crochet and show them the mathematics behind it," Savin said.

"She did the same thing with the flute. She had one girl who came to her who was in danger of failing and not graduating. My

aunt began to work with her all the time. Not only did she graduate, but she went to college as a math major."

Savin received a master's degree from Temple, and took graduate studies at Penn and other universities.

"She inspired me," Savin said. "Most of mother's sisters were

teachers or principals or something of that nature. I just wanted to keep graduating. Each time I did I'd say, 'There goes Aunt Alyce again,' because she kept learning and doing and I kept wanting to do the same thing."

Savin said her own mother married young, bore 10 children and then, inspired by Hall, earned her GED and later graduated from college.

Hall was handy with a sewing machine and made dresses for her sisters. She wasn't the best cook but she had all the latest gadgets.

"She was not an excellent cook but she had the first of everything," her niece said.

"She had the first Kitchen Aid mixers and if you went to visit her she'd be in the kitchen talking and whipping you up hot cakes or cupcakes. They were delicious. She also had the first knitting machine."

Hall was a member of Bethel AME Church in Bryn Mawr, where she taught Sunday school. Upon moving to Ardmore she joined St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

She was also a member of many organizations and clubs, including the Main Line NAACP, the Philadelphia Delta Kappa Sorority, Philadelphia Twigs, the National Council of Math Teachers, Delaware County Retired Teachers and the Philadelphia Teacher's Association.

She was an organizer and charter member of the Main Line Business and Professional Womens Association.

Hall is survived by her husband of 73 years, Marvin; two sons, Marvin Jr. and Michael; three sisters, Florence Derry, Grayce Roberts and Alma White; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services: 11 a.m. tomorrow at St. Mary Episcopal Church, 36 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore. Friends may call at 9:30 a.m. Burial will be in Valley Forge Memorial Park. ★



Hall

This Alyce met all the important identity tests, even though she wasn't young (born 1906), wasn't unmarried (wife of Marvin Hall), and wasn't all white. While teaching math at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, her abilities were noticed by the Department of Defense, and she was recruited for the Moore School's ballistics calculations program, joining over eighty other women mathematicians. She was the only black female mathematician hired during the project's three-year existence. Subsequently, Alyce Hall was one of a handful of women programmers of ENIAC, the world's first digital computer. Alyce's little sister, Alma McClaine White, also became an ENIAC statistician after the war.

There are few hints in public records that Alyce was exceptional. In 1950, her census enumeration says her occupation is "Making dresses" and that she is "Sewing at home."

Hall, Marvin R.	head	neg M	41	mar	Georgia	28	wk			40	General kitchen man	High school captain	P
—, Alyce M.	wife	neg F	42	mar	Penna		H	yes		20	Making dresses	Sewing at home	O
—, Marvin R. Jr.	son	neg M	16	mar	Penna		at	no	no				
—, Michael R.	son	neg M	3 mo	nee	Penna								

1950 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Haverford Township, enumeration district 23-107, sheet 73, 807 Chestnut Avenue, Marvin R. Hall household; Record Group 29, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Connecting the wife, mother, seamstress, and college graduate to the talented mathematician who was a Top Secret Rosie meets the Genealogical Proof Standard, but a few record groups have not been completely searched. One untapped source hinted at during the interviews of several of Alyce's nieces was a photograph of Alyce in a black newspaper in the 1940s. While the white community hid its talented women and described the ones present at ENIAC interviews as "refrigerator ladies," the black community celebrated Alyce and women like her.

The 1940s press picture(s) of Alyce have not been found, despite years of looking in the usual online collections. A special database of African American newspapers produced by Proquest may have the right papers but is so expensive that only a few university libraries in the U.S. carry them.

In the last decade Alyce has gotten substantial attention, but no movie yet, unlike the redoubtable Katherine Coleman Johnson (1918-2020), who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work as a NASA mathematician.

Alyce is an integral part of a series that may be picked up for broadcast someday. What a superb role for the right actress and a superb example of excellence for women who are "talented in math."



In Search Of ... Luxembourg Ancesters

My name is Diane Krier-Morrow from Evanston IL.

I am wondering if anyone has ancestors are from Luxembourg? I have been researching my family since 1978. I know most on the Krier side, from Tipton, KS. My Luxembourg heritage is mainly from Useldange, Luxembourg, where both my Mom and Dad had grandparents: **Krier, Schandler, Wolff, Colbach.**

I am a member of the Luxembourg Brotherhood of America, Section 15 in Skokie IL. I have written a monthly genealogy column for them since March 2021. [Click here to see my first article, page 2 where I introduce myself. I have attached an Index of all articles published and if you want to see any more, please let me know.](#)

I am actually 50% Luxembourg and 50% Germany (Trier - across the Attert River from Useldange).

I am interested in learning. One of my favorite websites is from a man in NE with the link luxembourgamericanfamilies.org.

My grandfather, Frank Krier, was the eldest of 15, five had died. Just recently through *23 and me*, I connected with two branches of the Krier family. Very exciting.

I am in contact with the Tipton Historical Society and a cousin is the Curator of the Mitchell County Historical Society, who gave me the tree starting with Grandpa Frank's Great-Grandfather, William Krier. I have not yet begun working on my Mom's paternal side, Marx, in Trier (I understand no relation to Karl Marx).

I actually wrote a 108-page book for my granddaughter and son with photos during the first 6 months of COVID and can email you those sections if you are interested in seeing them.

Anyway, I just wanted to make contact. I missed LUX Fest in Belgium, WI, this year and know that they are a great resource.

Diane Krier-Morrow
847-677-4952

Basia, Steve, Sean, and Sarah

Alan Frisher, 4/9/2022

***She gave birth at an early age without a way to turn the page
Times were different way back when; without marriage, there
could be no kin***

***Catholic parents would vilify a baby girl or baby boy
But what was more unthinkable could not be done within her
soul***

***She made her choice that rainy day; The hospital was far away
She could not bring herself to know the child who would
someday grow***

***She didn't look back, her life anew;
A Catholic family she soon grew***

***Curiosity in a woman's heart, who thinks about the very start
She has it all, a house and home; A loving family all her own
Yet somehow she was always wishing, to learn about what she
was missing***

***Fifty some odd years behave; Genetic testing all the rave
Results come back, could it be; The namesake of a family?
Half a brother, and his Mom; Other siblings, more to come?
Reaching out, can of worms; Sunny skies or thunder storms?
Will either want to recognize and come to terms with their blue
eyes?***

***We can pray that all is well;
Soon to know, time will tell.***



Hi, Bill,

We met briefly at the Genealogy breakout session at the International Convention in Houston that you were hosting. You were nice enough to allow me to tell my story and read my poem about my girlfriend using **23 and Me** to discover her (half) brothers and birth mother. You asked me to send you the poem so you could share it with your membership.

Sarah reached out to her brothers, who, after verifying that she was who she said she was, actually welcomed her as their sister with all their hearts. Their Mother, however, didn't come around nearly that easily. Initially, she didn't want anything to do with Sarah...until now. It took about 3 months, but Basia (Barbara) finally came around and welcomed Sarah with open arms.

I've attached my poem and a couple of photos showing the initial meeting of Sarah, her two daughters (Olivia and Charlotte) with her Mother as well as the reading of my poem with Sarah, her two (new) brothers, and her Mom. **23 and Me** is awesome and this is a true testament to genetic testing and Genealogy. I hope you like it.

Alan

What Comes After? Suggestions to Follow Up on After a Genealogy Conference

By Board Member Luanne Newman



Many of us may be members of multiple genealogical societies – some in our hometowns, others in ancestral towns, and maybe even out of the country. Some of these organizations hold regular events at which members and non-members can gather and learn from speakers. We have certainly learned to be comfortable with Zoom or other virtual webinars during this pandemic. From the monthly meetings to classes, and quarterly gatherings-- there is always a plethora of information shared.

The grandest event of the year might be the national annual conference in your state. Packed with a schedule of national speakers and vendors, these events can be a “shot in the arm” to any of us who have hit a “brick wall” or who yearn for more.

There are different parts of the conference that are always exciting. As much as I enjoy listening to our national speakers, I also look forward to the vendors and talking with like-minded people who share a passion.

Assuming you will all be attending a genealogy conference, here are some suggestions for after the event to maximize the value of your time and monetary investment:

- Follow the speakers on Social Media – Most all are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. and you can continue the learning process long after the event itself.
- Make an “appointment” with yourself – maybe even put it on your calendar – to look over the notes you took, at a later date. There was a reason you wrote it all down; refresh your memory with what was taught at the conference.
- Read – Did you buy a book? Can you connect with a presenter via their blog? Did you have a handout that you did not get a chance to look over yet? Pore over the paperwork and handouts you gathered to see what you missed.
- Plan for future opportunities – Whether you use a paper calendar or one on a digital device, begin filling in dates of future classes, society gatherings, and all the conferences that tickle your fancy. Digitally, you can include all registration details, costs, locations, and more. Remember to put an additional “event” in ahead of time and when the sign-up deadline is so that you don’t miss out. Other societies will be on hand or their conference and class info will be.
- Share – If you have a friend or relative that was unable to attend but could benefit from some information you learned, don’t forget to follow up with them and share. Maybe they will even join you next year.

Life gets busy, I get it. Then again, we took our time and money to be a part of the conference or local society. Balance.....and make the most of the many resources, here in our fellowship and elsewhere, too.



[Click here for more photos.](#)

Genealogy TV - Connie Knox



Connie Knox's [Genealogy TV](#) YouTube channel is a wonderful resource for genealogy training content. Click on the above image to go to her video "Start Over or Verify" in which she encourages you not to start over but to verify your tree and then proceeds to give you the steps you need to do so. (used with permission from Connie Knox)

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 from other popular genealogical sites are:

[Family Search](#)
[Family Tree Magazine](#)
[Genealogy Guys](#)
[Legacy](#)
[My Heritage](#)
[National Institute for Genealogical Studies](#)



Treasurers Report

Balance 6/30/22	8,153.74
Membership deposits net of PayPal fees	837.72
Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 10/18/22	8,991.46
Held within PayPal	6,028.13
Held in Rotary checking	2,963.33
Total cash	8,991.46

FORG Calendar

19 November Family Reunion Meeting
15 January Board Meeting via Zoom
15 January Deadline for Newsletter Submissions
(We need your input!)
01 February Newsletter Distributed

Holiday Recipes

Taste of Home

60 vintage Thanksgiving recipes to serve this year.

60 vintage Christmas recipes to serve this year.

60 Vintage Thanksgiving Recipes