

Notes from our President

Greetings Rotarian Genealogists!

Welcome to a new Rotary Year and a new look for our FORG Newsletter. In this issue you will meet our Newsletter Editor, Jenny Kendrick. Jenny is new to FORG, but certainly not new to Rotary or Genealogy. Jenny is already the editor of newsletters for her Rotary Club and District. Her experience in communications is a welcome addition to our Fellowship.

Please remember that this is *your* newsletter. We want to hear from you, and all our members, about your genealogy journey. What brought you to genealogy? What are your successes, and your not-so-successful ventures? What questions do you have? Have you found ways to combine your passion for Rotary with your passion for genealogy? Whether you are a beginner or an expert genealogist, if you have a story to tell (and I know all of you do), we want to hear it. A few of those stories are in this issue. We look forward to hearing many more. Contact me, Jenny, or any of us on the board (see email links to the right) and we will get your story in the queue for a future issue.

I am honored to be your FORG President for the next two years. Thanks go to our Board for their leadership in planning more activities for our Fellowship, more zoom meetings, more presentations, and more communications. My main goal during the next two years is to see our Fellowship become more active, more connected, and more vibrant within the family of Rotary. Thanks especially go to my predecessors Tris Tristram and Sue Beety, two of our founding members and our two former Fellowship Presidents, who continue to work as hard as ever for the benefit of this Fellowship... [more](#)

Letter from Editor

My name is Jenny Kendrick and I live in North Carolina, USA. I am married and have two grown, married stepchildren and four grandchildren (one who died at birth). My husband, Kevin, first got me interested in genealogy when we were still dating. We spent many dates and lunch hours at the library working on his genealogy. Sometime after we were married, I became more interested in my side of the family and joined Ancestry.com. Since then, I have worked on my genealogy on and off. I have restarted my tree several times as I made a lot of mistakes in the early years such as combining relatives with the same name and adding relatives without any proof. The last two years, I have had health concerns that put me in a wheelchair and during this time, I have spent as much time as possible working on my genealogy. I have found that all four sets of grandparents grew up in the Appalachia: Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. I also learned that all of my lines have been in the USA since before the Revolution, and that there has been a lot of intermarriage. I have many relatives who have been in the military fighting in the Revolutionary War, the Indian War, the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and the Vietnam War. I have also found some who were pioneers, breaking new land and making it their own. I love finding out about my relatives and hope to be able to write their stories soon. I am looking forward to putting together many newsletters for our fellowship and to hearing your stories and your discoveries.

Name This Newsletter Contest!

Our newsletter will be published quarterly, and we need a catchy name! We would love to have your submissions. So much so that we are offering a prize for the winner: bragging rights and winner's choice of either (1) an AncestryDNA genealogy test kit (our President, Bill Harvey, has donated the kit and offered to review the results with you if you like), or (2) 100 Foundation Recognition Points ... So put your thinking caps on and give us some fun titles.

Submissions should go to Secretary Sue Beety at secretary@rotariangenealogists.org. Please enter your submissions by August 31. The Board will choose the winner at our September Board Meeting, and it will be announced at our October Member Meeting.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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Pineville, North Carolina, USA

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Board Member Bio—Sue Weber



Greetings from the girl next door!

Since joining the Rotary Club of Annapolis in September of 2011, I have been very involved and dedicated to Rotary in many ways.

During my nine years, I have been on the board of directors for seven years. Serving as the Club President ('17-'18), District 7620 Area Governor for three years, holding many Lane Chair positions and I am currently serving as the Assistant to the District Governor of District 7620. I am a Paul Harris Society Member, Paul Harris Fellow +8 and a Major Donor.

I enjoy helping communities locally and internationally. In 2018, I went to Uganda for a global peace grant that concentrated on Maternal and Child Health. During my visit, I purchased 60,000 trees to have them planted and then gifted to the people in the village. Locally, I have been the chairperson for our clubs signature events. My club holds two signature events each year. The Largest Crab Feast in the

World and Black Tie & Diamonds. Our community looks forward to both of these events each year. It is safe to say that Rotary is in my blood.

When I am not busy with Rotary events, I am a residential Real Estate Agent for Long & Foster. I am also a CASA Volunteer working as an advocate for children in the foster care program. I am a big NAVY fan, so I am a sponsor parent for midshipmen and a huge NAVY football Fan. Go Navy Beat Army! I live in Annapolis Maryland with my husband, Mike and our two young Golden Retrievers. My 24 year old son will be starting his last year in Graduate School program in Social Work at Salisbury University.

There is never a dull moment next door and each day brings along something new and exciting. I look forward to serving on the Board and helping in any way I can. I am new to the genealogy research but very excited to learn from the professionals that we have in our fellowship. Cheers!

Member Bio—James and Susan Hunt



Dear FORG members. We are James and Susan Hunt. We are now living in Florida, however, we have only been here for four years, moving from Ohio in July of 2016.

I began my genealogy interest several years ago and began as a member of Family Tree Search which then morphed into Ancestry.com. Recently my first cousin once removed has also shown an interest in that side of the family so we have been working together to piece some things together.

Background for me (Susan) is a degree in Education from The Ohio State University. I taught for several years and then went into the family business which was begun by my Great Grandfather in 1885. (It was a building supplies business in the town of Elyria, Ohio.)

This side (my paternal) of the family has the fortune of having a published genealogy that was completed in the 1980s. There is also a published book from my Grandmother's side of the family. This side is very active and we are in contact on a private extended Facebook page where we share photos and stories as they are found. On my maternal side of the family there is also a publication that was a great way to begin the search on that side. I have not really spent as much time on this side of my family

as yet.

Hobbies for me are reading, travel, and photography. Through Rotary I have been able to do all three. We also hosted many, many Rotary Youth Exchange students, and Group Study Exchange Teams over the years, (I was a GSE Team Leader to Santa Catarina, Brazil) so we are connected through these Rotarians around the world.

I find genealogy fascinating and it is now fun to find the actual documents online to look at. When I began they were not as easy to see. I run into a few points where I can go no further and maybe someone will have a way to help me find out more.

A brief summary for James.

Graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Communication and graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a Masters in Business. My father asked him to join the family business first and that is when we moved from Columbus, OH up to Elyria, OH. My father asked Jim to join Rotary and that is when our lives began to change. Jim has a strong Rotary background, President of his club, a District Governor, and of course hosted the exchange students and GSE teams. He was a GSE Team leader to the Philippines.

Hobbies for Jim are Golf, swimming, reading, techy on the computer and bike riding with his new recumbent trike being the most fun.

Jim is newer to the genealogy search. He has been using the Mormon database for his search. He has reached one big brick wall regarding a Great Grandfather who refers to his father as being from Florida. He found that fascinating, but we cannot find out any more on this.

So that is a little bit about us. We look forward to seeing what we can learn from this group.

Updated Website



Our Webmaster, Lawrence Tristram, is busy updating our website. [Please click this link](#) to see his instructions on the changes and what you can now do on the site, and [click here to check out our website](#). He is open to any suggestions you may have about additions to the site, as long as they aren't too complicated. Please take a peek and give him some feedback at [this email address](#).

2020 Virtual Convention On Demand



Relive Rotary's [first-ever virtual convention on-demand](#) and learn why, now more than ever, Rotary Connects the World! Watch inspiring speakers and panelists from the general sessions. Connect with the

family of Rotary to discover innovative ways to engage and strengthen our communities by watching our breakout sessions. Want more? We will continue our breakout session program into July. And check out our Booth #136 in the Virtual House of Friendship. We will be there throughout July.

FORG Pins

FORG magnetic pins are included with a life membership (\$100) and are available to other members for a \$12 (free shipping) donation. [Contact Sue Beety](#) if you would like to buy a pin. Please include your street



My Brick Wall

Jeff Foss



I had a genealogy brick wall that I was trying to get through for several years, but couldn't seem to find my way through, until last month. My Scottish great grandfather George Williamson was a bit of a ghost because he essentially abandoned his family and no one knew when or why he came to Canada from Scotland and no one knew much about his life. That is, until I found his [Canadian WWI service record](#) and things began to fall into shape. Theoretically, he was too old to sign up, as only men ages 18 to 45 were eligible for conscription. Many lied about their age, but usually that was on the junior end, but our George lied about being 51 at the time. It's not clear why he lied to get in, but presumably it was to earn an income. You see, he was recruited in Fernie, British Columbia, from the logging camps there, according to his service record. That's our first glimpse of George in Canada, although [his obituary](#) says he was living in Calgary in 1912. He left his family behind in mining housing in Hamilton, Scotland, where his wife Elizabeth raised the 12 of the 15 surviving children, but brought them over to Canada after the Great War, or WWI. George was born into a family of Scottish coal miners and he himself was a coal miner there. The forestry industry of Canada must have been appealing to him, but it remains unclear precisely when he relocated to Canada. After WWI conscription, he served in the [Canadian Forestry Corps](#), as there was much need for lumber products for duckboards, shoring timbers and crates. He was later discharged as he was unfit to continue serving due to being an "old man". Following his discharge, he did odd labour work, but failed to live up to his family obligations. [See Non-support newspaper clipping](#).

Any way, that's my little roadblock story. Because of his age, I did not suspect that George Williamson had served in WWI. His obituary led me to look for a war record and the fact that George lied about his age caused me to have to look through all George Williamson war records to see if I could confirm his record. Once I could confirm a few other details in the record, including at the end where the doctors were on to his lie, things started to fall into place.

In Search Of ...

Mary Fran Nordstrom

I wonder if anyone has information on the Wilweers family from Greimerath near Trier in Germany. My great grandfather Casper (Jasper) Wilweers died after being gored by a bull. His wife and young daughters and her mother then moved to the US to join her brother in Indiana. Casper may have had sisters who moved to South Africa.

German Genealogy Resource

Gordon Seyffert, Altadena, CA, USA

I noticed that you included “Member News” in your last email. So I’d like to suggest an addition as regards my work with the Immigrant Genealogical Society in Burbank, CA, USA. We’re a small organization with a 40+ year history that’s been hit hard by the internet age. We don’t have regular meetings, and only rarely have special events. We no longer have many volunteers, but we keep working to survive as best we can.

But one of the things that I realized we had still was years’ worth of correspondence in which people revealed to us all manner of details about their immigrant ancestry (if American) or family descendants (if Germans). You see, from many years ago our specialty is working with both Americans and Germans to make the “connections” across the pond that answer people’s questions. Americans have wanted to get past language and document access barriers to find out their European origins. Germans have often wondered about distant relatives who “went to America”; what happened to them and did they leave behind Americans who are their present-day distant cousins?

So what I’ve done is to take an abandoned couple of file drawers holding “Surname files” and add to it from those correspondence files (which no one ever touches!). Each folder has a label taken from the dominant surname, but the database I’m building has seven fields for each database record. The first is the label name itself, and the next (up to) three are either variants on that name or major allied names found in the file. The next and last (up to) three are place names — in either America or Europe, but very importantly those of the 3,000+ U.S. counties or the European equivalents of local regions (e.g., often the “Kreis” name if in Germany). That’s so we cast a broader net, and not just focus on village. Seeing personal names connected with place names can help a person decide if this might be “their” family, or not.

[Attached is the database as it exists to date.](#) And this Covid-19 crisis has meant that I have more time to process the files and extract the names that are then placed in the database. There’s no guarantee this will help anyone, but I do know for sure that old and unused correspondence files help no one! With a database, at least a person can easily search for a name of interest, be it a personal name or a county (or county-equivalent) name, and see if further investigation might be indicated. This is, I must admit, a one-man operation for the most part. But I can’t rest until I at least attempt to make what we have be more accessible. For other societies with similar back files, this could be a model....

Feel free to share this, knowing that the papers that stand behind the database record may vary in professionalism level, and may or may not have a valid current contact. Many of the original letter senders are probably deceased by now. But at least there might be some “breadcrumbs in the forest” to lead us in the direction we wish to go. If any FORG members see something of interest, I’m [willing to open a one-to-one discussion by email](#) to see if we have a potential match. Meanwhile, this progresses slowly forward in these troubling times.



Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy

Cecily Cone Kelly



Usually in January, I pack myself off to frigid Salt Lake City for the [Utah Genealogical Association’s](#) week long “[Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#)” or SLIG. I have had the opportunity to learn from some of the world’s very best genealogists, Dr. Thomas Jones, Cece Moore, Dr. John Colletta and Judy G. Russell just to name a few. Initially, when they announced that this year’s Institute would be virtual, I was disappointed. I would miss my time at the Family History Library and reconnecting with my genealogy friends. Now, I’ve realized that there is a silver lining in the pandemic restrictions. It means that I can take two courses! [more](#)

Virtual Conferences/Classes

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

[MyHeritage Online Webinars](#)

[Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy in January 2021](#)

[Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Webinars for July](#)



Interesting Links

Founder and CEO of [MyHeritage](#), Gilad Japhet, just revealed some exciting new developments — some of which had never been made public before — during a talk he delivered online to the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) on June 23. Gilad also gives a sneak peek to exciting upcoming features that [MyHeritage](#) is currently developing in genealogy and DNA... [more](#)

[Smithsonian Magazine SmartNews](#) advised of new digital archives exploring 133 years of African American Funeral Programs at the [Digital Library of Georgia](#).

Family Recipes

Calico Beans

½ lb. Hamburger	2 tsp vinegar
½ lb. Bacon (cubed)	1 teaspoon dry mustard
½ cup chopped onion	1 can butter beans
½ cup ketchup	1 can pork and beans
¾ cup brown sugar	1 can kidney beans

(Mom Beety's recipe uses 1 can lima beans also)

Brown the bacon, drain, and set aside. Brown the hamburger and onion. Season the hamburger. Drain excess grease, if any, and set aside. In fry pan, put ketchup, brown sugar, vinegar, and mustard. Simmer for a few minutes. Drain beans and combine all ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-60 minutes. Freezes well and can be made ahead.

Sue (Barone) Beety *this recipe was given to her at her wedding shower by her mother-in-law to be. Before Sue met her husband she was the friend of his sister, Deb. This bean recipe or variations of this recipe were served at almost every family gathering. Sue even got a standing ovation at a Police picnic many years ago. Substitute different beans (except for the baked Beans). If you do not have hamburger it still works. Sue always doubled the sauce. Instead of baking put in a crock pot. Make ahead.*



Potato Candy

1 small russet potato—peeled and chopped
6-7 cups powdered sugar
2/3 cups peanut butter

1. In a small pot of boiling water, cook the potato until tender. Drain and transfer to a bowl; mash until smooth and lump-free. You will need about 1/2 cups mashed or less. Allow to cool slightly.
2. In an extra large bowl, combine cooked potato and 2 cups of powdered sugar until loosely blended.
3. Continue to add powdered sugar and stir until the mixture forms a putty-like dough. It will get tougher to mix, so feel free to use your hands and mix as with bread dough.
4. Sprinkle powdered sugar onto wax paper and transfer the dough onto the wax paper. Sprinkle the dough with powdered sugar. Roll out the dough into somewhat of a rectangular shape.
5. Spread an even layer of peanut butter over the entire surface of the dough. Slowly roll the dough from one long edge to the other. Wrap the dough up in the wax paper and chill in fridge for about an hour.
6. Slice the candy into 3/4 inch thick pieces.

Jenny (Osborne) Kendrick *This is a very sweet treat and not for the faint of heart! My grandmother and after her, my mother, made this recipe every Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Now, my sister has taken over the job.) I know of no other family who has made this recipe, but if you Google it, there are a ton of sites with similar instructions. My grandmother used to put a little red or green food color in the dough for Christmas. From research, the best that is known is the recipe was popular during the Great Depression when people needed ingredients that were widely available and inexpensive.*

