

Notes from our President

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter: The Rotarian Genealogist. Last quarter brought a new editor and a new look, and this quarter we have a new name. Read below for more on the winner of our naming contest.

What does it mean to be a Rotarian Genealogist? Many of us have lived with these two terms, Rotarian and genealogist, for years. But until my association with FORG, I had never really thought about their integration. It seems to me that these two terms fit together quite well.

Rotary can be described in so many ways, but to me it is primarily about fellowship and service. And these two goals fit well within the world of genealogy. The search for ones ancestors can sometimes be a lonely pursuit, but we have our greatest successes through collaboration with others: cousins searching for the same family, other researchers searching through the same records, and experts who can guide us in the right direction. And genealogy provides tremendous opportunities for service: preserving records and making them more accessible, sharing discoveries with others, helping beginning researchers, teaching future generations about their family's part in history, and working with people from different cultures and traditions to help them understand their own family histories and how we all interconnect.

I am proud to be a Rotarian Genealogist and pleased to be associated with all of you. Let us continue to work together in our Fellowship to find ways to be of service in genealogy.

Bill Harvey, President, FORG

Fellowship Officers

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Director B [Bruce Richardson](#), Mississauga North, Canada

Newsletter Editor [Jenny Kendrick](#), Pineville, North Carolina, USA

In This Issue:

President's Notes Bill Harvey

Winner of the Name This Newsletter Contest

Board Member Bio—Bruce Richardson (pg 2)

Celebrating Family History Month (pg 2)

Message from Webmaster (pg 2)

Forensic Genealogy and the 4-Way Test (pg 3)

Member Bio—Melinde Byrne (pg 3)

What is DNA Painter? (pg 4)

Getting Started: Tips to Help You On Your Way (pg 4)

5 Types of Ancestor's Land Records You Should Look For (pg 4)

Hurricane Hits Our Member Around Lake Charles (pg 4)

Why You Should Start Using Pinterest (pg 5)

FORG Pins (pg 5)

What Got You Started? (pg 6)

NGF FSG Merger (pg 7)

Conferences/Classes (pg 7)

Help Wanted (pg 7)

Family Recipes: Madhumita Bishnu and George Mokwunye (pg 8)

Winner of the Name This Newsletter Contest! Congrats, Ron Lyster!



Congrats to Ron Lyster. There were over 20 entries. The Board voted on the top three. Ron now gets bragging rights and he chose 100 Paul Harris points as his prize.

Ron is a Past President of the Westwood Village (Los Angeles, California, USA) Rotary Club. Ron is no stranger to Rotary International Fellowships, having co-sponsored the International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (the "IFMR"). It was on an IFMR ride, in fact, that Ron discovered the joy of genealogy. That ride was to the RI Convention in Salt Lake City, where Ron decided to spend some time in the Family History Library. Searching his family name - Lyster - quickly moved back in time to find his 10th great grandfather who, in 1656, had immigrated with his family to the Dutch colony of New Netherland. (The surname was "Luyster" back then.) This was certainly news to Ron's father, who had absolutely no idea from where the Lysters (or Luysters) had come to North America.

Ron is a retired tax and estate planning attorney who loves to travel (and hates the covid-19 lockdowns). Guin is his wife of 42 years, and they have two children, Martin and Cynthia.

Ron says of this photo: Here is a photo of me and my wife, Guin, standing next to a German city limit sign. Why did I choose this one you ask? Well, that little German town is where my maternal grandfather was born, and I would never have found it without genealogy. How's that? My mother never met, nor even knew the names of, her father's parents. My shared family tree and DNA samples caused a

German genealogist to find me and ask about my grandfather. When we attended the Hamburg convention (and the FORG breakout session) we visited this German genealogist and he took us around my grandfather's birthplace.

LINKS

[Our Calendar](#)

[Our Website](#)



Board Member Bio—Bruce Richardson



Hello my name is Bruce Richardson and I'm the new Director B for the Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists. I was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and have relatives and ancestors in Montreal, Ottawa, The Eastern Townships, and The Laurentians (north of Montreal), but my real roots come from Scotland and England. I'm 61 years old. My wife, Maureen has a background of French Canadian and Irish. We have two adult children, our daughter Anastasia lives in Vancouver and is a Genetic Councilor, our son Mackenzie is in Japan teaching English. We have lived in Mississauga, Ontario, for the past 33 years (Mississauga is a

suburb of Toronto).

My goal for FORG is to help get volunteers for our committees; specifically the Membership and the Queries committees.

FORG Calendar—UK Times (UTC+1)

17 Oct 2020 7:30 pm—8:30 pm
General Member Meeting
9 Jan 2021 5:30 pm
Board Meeting
15 Jan 2021 Deadline for newsletter articles
1 Feb 2021 Newsletter published
6 Feb 2021 7:30 pm—8:30 pm
General Member Meeting
15 April 2021 Deadline for newsletter articles
17 Apr 2021 5:30 pm
Board Meeting
1 May 2021 Newsletter published
15 May 2021 7:30 pm—8:30 pm
Annual Member Meeting



Celebrating Family History Month

Family Tree

Since being passed by Congress in 2001, Family History Month has been observed annually during the month of October. The month now celebrates a great deal of promotion and recognition—from community events to lectures and workshops held by historians and funeral service professionals, there are plenty of ways to get out and get inspired... [more](#)

Message from your Webmaster

Lawrence 'Tris' Tristram, lgtforg@gmail.com

Up-date

In the Documents section, we have added items that can be of use while you are working on your research that can be downloaded if you wish. If you have others, please forward them to me so I can upload them.

Registration

Many of our charter members joined via a document that you sent to our Secretary or handed in at one of the conventions. They may not be included in the online member list. This is because WordPress requires a username which cannot be changed, and I felt it would be best to allow members to select their own rather than have me impose one on them. However, I will start entering these registrations shortly so that our total membership is registered on the site. Some of the 'paper' application member have asked how they can login to the site and have done so. The following will help those who have not yet registered on the site to do so.

Registration for Charter and early members

Please visit rotariangenealogists.org and click the big green 'Join us' button. This will take you to the registration form. Please note that you will need to select in the type of membership box 'Life' as the Board decided that all Charter members are life members, then click the Register button. You do NOT need to go anywhere near the PayPal widget. You will be returned to a thank you page and again, please do not make any payment.

Your submission will come to me so I will be able to activate your membership and then you can create a password or use the one selected for you and then you will be in! Please make a note of the password offered if you decide to use it as it was automatically generated and is quite difficult to hack.

Members Area

In the members area of the registration form, you can add a short bio of yourself and up to 8 names (i.e. the 8 great-grand parents family names) you may be researching. These will appear in the profiles in the Member List and these details can be added by editing your profile. I have added the names from copies of the 'paper' applications where they are registered. You can now search the Member List for 'Research Name' by entering the name in the search box on the members page and choosing 'surname you are researching'.

Have a stroll around the site, enjoy it, and if you can dream up a feature I could add let me know. Just not too complicated, please.





Forensic Genealogy and the Four Way Test

IS IT THE TRUTH? IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED? YES!

MELINDE LUTZ BYRNE CG, FASG, FNGS

Forensic genealogy is the study of identity and kinship as it pertains to the law. For many years I used this description for probate cases where lists of heirs were incomplete or totally unknown. Lawyers sometimes reached out to genealogists to close such cases.

Three types of DNA evidence (umbilical line mitochondrial DNA in 1990s, sperm line Y DNA in 2000s, and autosomal DNA in good numbers by 2010), became commercially available direct to consumers through companies like FamilyTreeDNA and 23andme. Genealogists immediately embraced these tools to solve identity puzzles. Now we use an ever-growing number of websites and companies that help genealogists, search angels, and hobbyists research ancestors, descendants, unknown parents, MIA and KIA military, and sometimes track inheritance of traits and mutations.

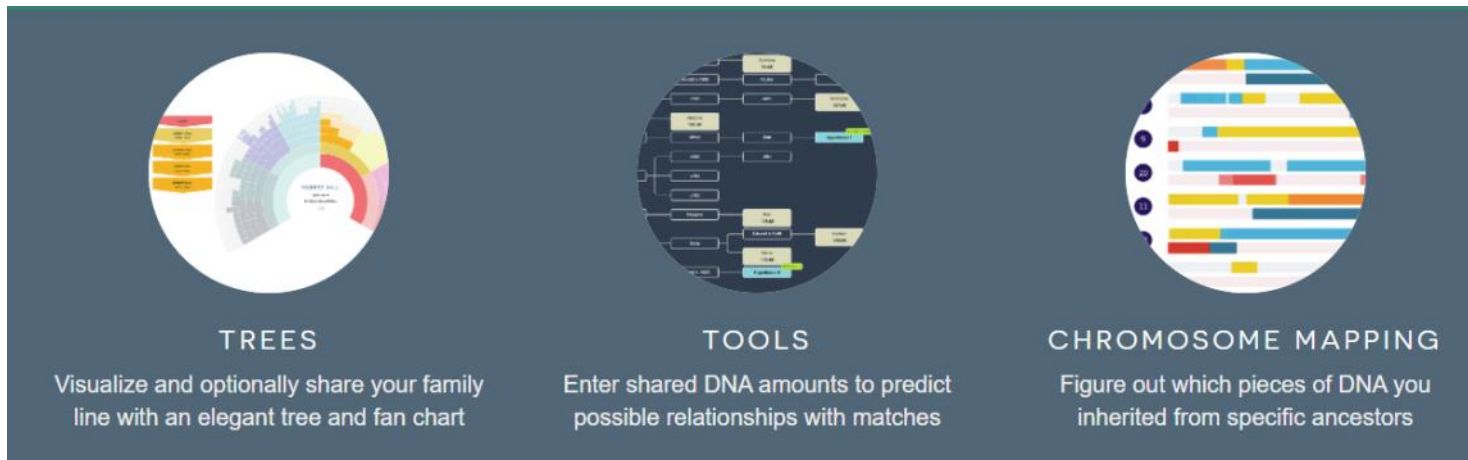
In 2005-2009 a number of missing or unidentified people cases were solved by genealogists Colleen Fitzpatrick, Corey Oiesen, and others. It wasn't until 2017 when search angel Barbara Rae Venter's solution of a California housewife's true parentage led to the identities of a previously unsuspected serial killer and three of four young female victims, that law enforcement realized the power of genealogical searches. This case, the Bear Brook (Allentown, New Hampshire) oil drum victims, had been described as the most heinous unidentified serial murders in America... [more](#)

Member Bio—Melinde Byrne



Melinde has been a genealogist since 1976. Trained as an anthropologist and archivist, she began publishing in 1979. She was elected one of the fifty Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists in 1993 (www.fasg.org) and was its President. In 1984 she joined a four member team to conduct forensic genealogical research. In 1992 she worked with geneticists compiling umbilical mtDNA lineages. In 1995 Melinde joined a five year publishing project to produce *The Great Migration Begins* and subsequent *The Great Migration* volumes. Recent publications have appeared in the *Hofstra Law Review* (habeas corpus) and *The New England Quarterly* (colonial African freedom). She co-authored editorials in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. She has been a guest on NPR *Talk of the Nation* and spotlighted on CBS, NBC, and PBS and has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *AARP*, *SWE*, and *Newsweek*. Recently lectured on African names, on a Jane Doe found in 1971, burial ground discoveries, holocaust research, and DNA evidence used to identify samples for law enforcement. Currently researching a book on Miriam Perlstein, a reader on a TV miniseries screenplay "Top Secret Rosies," and advocating for public records access.

What is DNA Painter?



TREES
Visualize and optionally share your family line with an elegant tree and fan chart

TOOLS
Enter shared DNA amounts to predict possible relationships with matches

CHROMOSOME MAPPING
Figure out which pieces of DNA you inherited from specific ancestors

DNA Painter is a website for genealogists and family history enthusiasts who have taken an autosomal DNA test. Interpreting test results can be a challenge. DNA Painter helps by providing a platform where you can:

- ⇒ Take stock of what you already know about your family line by building or importing a tree
- ⇒ Use the amount of DNA you share with matches (measured in centiMorgans) to look at how you might be related to them with interactive tools
- ⇒ Try chromosome mapping to visualize the actual segments of DNA you share with matches to deduce which parts of your DNA you inherited from specific ancestors in your tree.

[Click here to go to the DNA Painter website for more information.](#)

Getting Started: Tips to Help You On Your Way

American Ancestors, Ann Lawthers, Genealogist



So you want to find out about your family history. Maybe you want to learn the identity of your ancestors, find out where they lived and what they did for a living? Or maybe your family lore includes stories of a *Mayflower* immigrant? Perhaps you've heard that your ancestor fought in the Revolutionary War or the Civil War? Or you may have medical concerns and wish to find out about your family's medical legacy. Curiosity, lineage, and medical history are all common reasons to take up the growing hobby of genealogy... [more](#)

Five Types of Ancestors' Land Records You Should Look For

FamilyTree Magazine



Many of us are familiar with all the paperwork modern property ownership involves, but that paperwork isn't new. Our ancestors' opportunities and options for acquiring land varied over time, and the ensuing paperwork offers a lot of insight into family and communal relationships, their migration patterns, and more. Depending when and where your family migrated, these five types of historical land records may help you develop your family tree... [more](#)

Hurricane Hits Our Member Around Lake Charles

Carolyn LeJeune

We knew for days the hurricane was going to hit us but we didn't know until the last few hours that it was going to be a Category 4 storm when it came ashore. The eye along with 150 mph winds came across Cameron LA about 30 miles south southwest of Lake Charles or 40 miles east of Port Arthur TX. We were located near Welsh, LA about 23 miles east of Lake Charles. We lost power about 10:00 pm. We had moved our C pap machines with battery back up to our family room downstairs. It hit us about 1:30 am. I slept thru it because my c pap machine still had battery power. Dave however was awake and heard the wind and branches cracking outside. The only damage to our house was a shingle but we had lots of downed trees and branches... [more](#)



Why You Should Start Using Pinterest for Genealogy

Family History Daily



If you're one of the 175 million people around the world who use Pinterest every month, you probably already know that there's a lot to love. Maybe you think of Pinterest as a great place to collect clever home décor ideas or as the best spot to peruse beautiful images of tasty food (who doesn't?) - but did you know that Pinterest is so much more than that? It may be the free

genealogy tool you've been missing... [more](#)

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 at

secretary@RotarianGenealogist.org



What Got You Started?

Luanne Gatti Triolo Newman, Member



Her name was Olga -- Olga Charlotte Hilda Wille -- and she was born in 1901 or "ought-one" as she sometimes said to me. Her parents immigrated to America from Germany in 1881 and she was my maternal grandmother.

Grandma lived with us, first on the north side of Chicago near Kilbourn Park, then later moved with us to the northern suburb of Glenview in 1959 where she and I shared a bedroom

She was one of many in this big German Lutheran family. Her younger brother George died at the age of 29 while he was engaged. She married Art Fromm in 1923 whom she met at Jehovah Lutheran Church and they built a house on Scoville Avenue, Oak Park. Her life was not easy. That strong stucco house wasn't to be hers long, as she lost her husband in 1932, and the house soon after. Her 3 year old son and her 6 year old daughter (my mother) watched from inside the house as the funeral procession passed by; they couldn't attend because they had Scarlet Fever and were quarantined.

Her sisters and brothers --- our great-aunts and great-uncles -- were close to Olga and close to us; we had regular family gatherings, reunions, and birthdays. Staying overnight at the Aunts house was always special, from the felt board figures, to the Tickle Bee game, the smell of the Dove soap in the hallway bathroom, right down to that mailbox that was accessed from a little trap door.

Olga was a grandmother full of fun, playing on the floor with her grandchildren and later great-grandchildren. She had just the right amount of "stern", which seemed to show its head as we

became teenagers. Olga lost her daughter, Ruth, in 1978, to cancer. It is so difficult for a parent to outlive their child. My brother, sister, and I married and had children of our own.

In 1989, she suffered a stroke and passed away. Olga Charlotte Hilda Wille Fromm died 88 years and 27 days after she entered this world. Her wake and funeral were held in the Chicago area. Since I was the local grandchild, I gathered items and photos to bring to the funeral home -- her wedding photo, various pictures of Grandma with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and some family history her older sister Lillian had typed out.

The wake was as you would expect -- moments of laughter, moments of tears, and stories re-told. "There were 9 children in the family" "There were an even dozen." "Caroline was the oldest" "There were 3 born before Caroline" How could this be? Grandma had been with us all these years; she was barely gone and we had questions we needed her to answer.

The wake and funeral were over and family that visited returned to their homes and lives. I contacted the cemetery where the family was buried, Concordia in Forest Park, to inquire about other family members' graves. Yes, they said there was a note of a child buried over one of the graves, and another mention of an infant. One trip to the synod headquarters was enough to find all three births and all three deaths listed in church books from the late 1800's, stored in cardboard boxes. These three baby girls would have been my great aunts....and we so loved our great aunts. How could it be that this information on my great aunts was there and I did not know it? What other information was there to find??

My answer to the question in the title of this article is: It all started at my Grandmother's wake.

What is your answer to the question of why and how you started researching your family tree?

Rotary



FORG Members Meeting

Saturday 17 October at 7.30 pm London time (UTC+1)

What is a One Name Study?

Many of us will have heard of a one name study, sometimes called a surname study, indeed a few of us may be carrying out one. I have been a member of the Guild Of One Name Studies since 2009 but I only registered my ONS for the name Henner recently.

We will have Tessa Keough from the Guild here to tell us about one name studies and then she will go on to tell us about the Guild and all that it does.

Tessa is the USA National Guild Representative and she is the USA West Regional Representative for the Guild

Come and join us and learn about this fascinating aspect of family history / genealogy.

Lawrence "Tris" Tristram , lgtforg@gmail.com



NGS-FGS Merger

The boards of the Federation of Genealogical Society (FGS) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) are thrilled to announce that the FGS membership has voted to approve the merger with NGS. The final tally of eligible voters expressed unanimous support for the merger. "We are so excited about the bright future of the combined organization that is the new NGS. During the process of preparing for this merger, we have seen a unified commitment and huge enthusiasm of the leaders for serving family history organizations," said Faye Stallings, FGS President... [more](#)



Conferences/Classes

2020 Oct 17 Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (deadline 13 Oct) [Hopscotching from Origins to DNA](#)

2021 Jan 10-15, 18-21, & 24-29 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) [Elevate Your Genealogical Education to New Heights](#)

2020 Feb 25-27 [RootsTech Connect](#) (free)

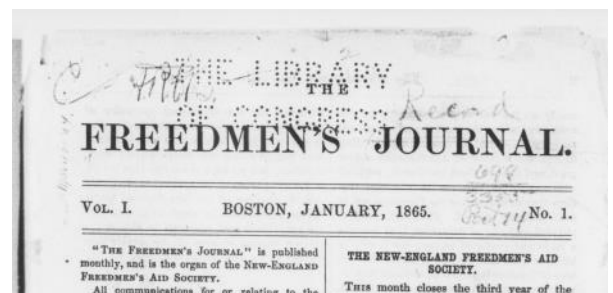
2021 May 19-22 National Genealogical Society 2021 Family History Conference [Deep Roots of a Nation](#), Richmond or Virtual [Click here for Brochure](#)

2021 Nov 5-7 [London RootsTech](#)



Help Wanted!

[Can You Help Us Make the 19th Century Searchable?](#) The journal for newly freed slaves published by Frederick Douglass is just one of more than two million texts in the Internet Archive dating before 1900. The problem: how to make these older texts more machine readable for better search, analysis and discovery. Internet Archive's founder Brewster Kahle calls upon a new breed of techie, Culture Techies, willing to bring their skills to bear on unlocking these treasures.



Family Recipes

Achari Ande / Egg Pickle

Course – Main Meal

Cuisine – Indian (South India)

Author – Madhu's Kitchen

Serves -2 people

Difficulty level – Easy

Preparation time -15 mins, Cooking time-10 mins

Ingredients

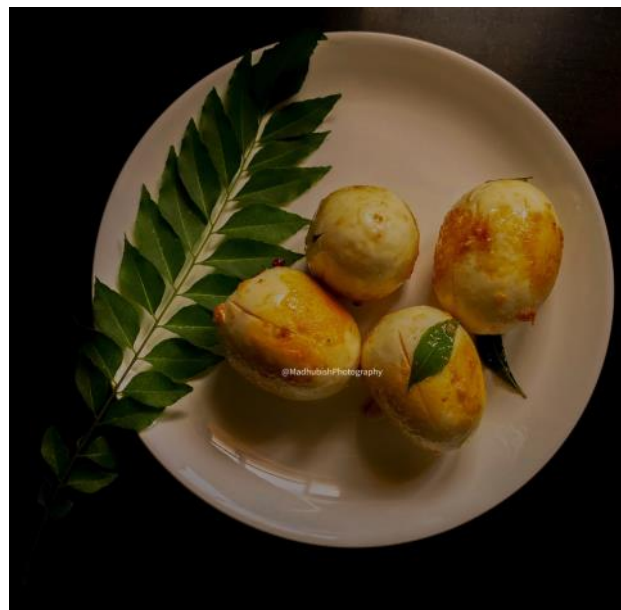
6 eggs
2 sprigs of curry leaves
1 tsp garlic pods chopped
1/2 tsp garlic paste
1/2 tsp ginger paste
1/2 tsp fenugreek seeds
1/2 tsp mustard seeds
1/2 tsp red chilli powder
1 lime juice
4-6 Tbsp mustard oil
Salt as per taste

Method

Boil the eggs. Peel and set aside. In a wok heat 1 Tbsp mustard oil. Add fenugreek seeds, mustard seeds, curry leaves and once all splutters. Set aside. In the same wok heat oil again and fry the eggs until golden in colour. Set aside the fried eggs. In the same wok add rest of the oil and add ginger paste, garlic paste, chopped garlic, red chilli powder, whole garam masala and stir well until all masalas are cooked well. Add the eggs and mix the eggs well with the masalas. Set aside and let it cool completely. Before serving add the lime juice and stir. Serve hot with steamed rice.

Madhumita Bishnu

I love Pickles a lot. In Bengali we say Achar. I love most Raw Mango Pickle. Other than that I've had many kinds and my Late Mom used to make of Indian Plums, Raw Mango, Whole Red Chilli, Shrimp etc. Today I made with Egg and this is a favourite recipe of mine. I've prepared earlier and it's always a major hit with me. I made in South Indian style by adding curry leaves.



Pounded Yam with Egusi Soup

Ingredients

A cup of grounded Mellon seed
Red palm oil
Crey fish
Salt and pepper
Better leaf
Some tubers of yam
Electric blender

Instructions

Boil the yam tubers after piling. It can be pounded in a mortar, or electric pounder. Add a little water to enable it to blend very well for easy swallowing. As for the Egwusi soup, add the grounded Mellon seed into a boiling water, add pepper, salt maggi cubes, meat ,fish etc. Allow to boil for some time,.

George Mokwunye

Nigerians love pounded yam with Egusi soup. Egusi is a by-product of dry Mellon seed. This is one of the commonest and loved family recipe especially among the south east, south west, cultural groups in Nigeria. Mellon seed is rich in protein (80%). Nigeria is one of the Sub-saharian African countries. This recipe is also popular during festivities such as New Yam Festival, traditional engagements, birthday parties, funeral services etc. Ironically, it has some ancestral attachments in its consumption. Our forefathers believed that its consumption brings luck, power and physical strength.

