

Notes from our President

Fellow Rotarian Genealogists:

Greetings and welcome to Spring (here in the Northern Hemisphere), the season when many of us take the opportunity to close our computers, step outside, enjoy the warming weather, and . . . go to a cemetery of course!

Here in the US, we celebrate Memorial Day on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, was originally a holiday to honor those who died in the US Civil War. It is now officially a holiday to commemorate all who died in military service. And for many of us, Memorial Day also presents an opportunity to visit the graves of other close relatives, in addition to those who served in the military. One of the earliest photos ever taken of me was on Memorial Day 1963, when I was less than a month old, shown together with my three siblings – at a cemetery. I guess I was born to love genealogy and cemeteries.

My favorite memories of Memorial Day involve my Grandmother, Jettie (Jobe) Adams (1896-1991), my “Grandma Jettie.” She is largely responsible for my love of genealogy, cemeteries, and food. Grandma Jettie was a fascinating and complex woman. Her life spanned most of the Twentieth Century. She was born in Arkansas in 1896 and as a child travelled by covered wagon to the newly opened Oklahoma Territory. Later in life she watched on her television as men walked on the surface of the moon. She voted in the first US election when women could vote (1920) and *never* missed an election after that. She was a devout Baptist and a life-long opponent of alcohol. Her formal education ended with the 8th grade, but she read books, papers, and magazines voraciously throughout her life (including talking books after she lost her sight) and she was never afraid to express her sometimes shockingly progressive political opinions.

Before it was me, Jettie was the family historian. She never did much independent research, but she loved to keep records of the names of her family and relatives, type up the information she had on her trusty Corona typewriter, and she corresponded by postal mail and rotary dial telephone with numerous cousins around the country, some of whom were quite serious researchers. One such cousin was Lois (Jobe) Cunningham who discovered that our Jobe line went back to Andrew Job(e), a Pennsylvania Quaker who was a close associate of William Penn himself. But perhaps most importantly Jettie encouraged *me* to research and encouraged my mother to take me around to libraries and courthouses all over the country when I was just a kid. Jettie instilled a lifetime of family curiosity into my psyche.

And Jettie loved cemeteries. I fondly remember our family Memorial Day trips to Forest Lawn Cemetery here in Omaha where we had many ancestors and relatives buried. Jettie knew the location of each grave, and the trips took on additional importance for her after her husband, my grandfather Fred Adams, died in 1978. As we would visit each grave, Jettie would recount the family stories about the people whose memorials we were visiting, which encouraged the rest of us to share our memories as well.



FORG Calendar—UK Times

May 2021
15 May 2021 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (UTC+1)

Newsletter published
Annual Member Meeting

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



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And Jettie loved to cook. She was a small, slight woman who, as my grandfather liked to say, “didn’t eat enough to keep a bird alive”, but she had no greater pleasure than cooking for others. She enjoyed cooking everyday meals and she enjoyed cooking for large family dinners. Most of her recipes were simple ones, inspired by the times in which she lived as well as her mid-southern heritage. From Jettie I learned to eat and love pan-fried chicken, sauteed turnips, brussels sprouts, lima beans, stewed apples, riced potatoes, and too many other dishes to name. And Jettie loved to bake, from her famous chocolate chip cookies to chocolate cake, and pies and breads and holiday fruitcakes. In the recipe section, later in this newsletter, I share a couple of recipes of particular interest.

Who is the “Grandma Jettie” in your life? Is there a relative or other person who inspired your love of genealogy, or cemeteries, or family recipes? What family memories or traditions do you have about visiting cemeteries or honoring your deceased ancestors and relatives? We would love to have you share your story. Feel free to email it to me, or to Jenny our newsletter editor, and hopefully we can share some of those stories in a future newsletter.

Happy Hunting (for ancestors)!

Bill Harvey, President FORG

Rotary



FORG Members Annual Meeting—May 15
7:30 pm London Time 1:30 Central Time

Special Speaker Myko Clelland—FindMyPast Tips and Tricks

Myko Clelland is genealogist, spokesperson & regional licensing manager for Findmypast, regularly discussing family history on television, radio, online & in print.

He holds a Masters degree in genealogy (distinction) and is a qualified adult education teacher with over 200 worldwide



speaking appearances, from Oxford University to The National Archives (UK), National Library of Wales, RootsTech, The Society of Genealogists, Who Do You Think You Are? Live & many regional archives & local family history groups.

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83792758142?pwd=anE5YTIaU2hQTDhPaHRwL2VPczlFQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 9275 8142

Passcode: 679344

Member Bio—Lisa Tonjes Moritz



Lisa first remembers learning about family history at about 9-years old when her family celebrated the centennial of the homestead of the family farm (Bertrand, NE). She was also living on the farm in the house where her mother and grandfather grew up. This was also the same time she started taking photos and loving to look at them.

Today, Lisa lives in Omaha, NE with her husband, Bruce and their son. Anderson Henry Tonjes Moritz arrived on his mom's birthday in 2016 and has a fun story of how his name reflects several generations of his grandfathers. She owns HOPE organizing which specializes in helping families organize, preserve, share and celebrate their memories. After years of organizing client's family history, she is now more than ever interested in learning more about the generations she never knew.



Board Member Bio—Lawrence Tristram



I was born over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century ago in Hampshire, England. When I was eighteen I joined the Corps of Royal Engineers and eventually became a printer. After leaving the army, I became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors as a Quantity Surveyor.

I joined the Rotary Club of Bordon in April 1986. Since then I have been a member of four clubs and President of two of them. I was District Governor of District 1110 for the year 2019-2020. I have attended 12 Rotary Conventions. In Birmingham, UK, I first met Fellowships in the guise of the Rotarian Singles Fellowship, and I also joined a few others. It was at a Convention where I saw that a certain Sue Beety had expressed an interest in a fellowship for genealogists, and the rest is history!

I first became interested in my family history in the late '90s when I saw a tree that my father had produced before he died in '67 which indicated that my great-great-grandfather was "William of Hereford", which sounded to me to be an important person and so I started tracing my family. It turns out that he was my great-grand-uncle and he was a shoemaker. However the trap had been sprung!

In 2009 I joined the Guild Of One Name studies as I could see that they had a lot of expertise that could help me but it wasn't until I attended RootsTech London before I registered the study of the surname Henner which was the maiden name of my 3x great-grandmother, mainly because it is uncommon and, dare I say it, seemed 'strange'.

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

Beginners' Guides—Family Tree Sites

The following link, [Best Family Tree Builders of 2021 Reveal Your Family History](#), from Top10.com (updated April 2021) gives wonderful information on family tree websites and downloadable programs. It rates the sites and gives information on how many records are available, how many profiles (or users) it has, and the areas of the world it covers. Below the ratings is a wonderful article on what you need to know about genealogy and family tree building tools.

[Click here to download a 5-generation ancestor chart compliments of Family Tree Magazine to help you get started.](#)



Rotary Opens Opportunities



Registration is open! Don't miss your chance to connect with Rotary members at the [2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities](#) which will take place from 12-16 Jun 2021.

Enjoy a special rate of \$49 through 7 May 2021. After that, the registration fee is \$65.

The 2021 Virtual Rotary Convention is open to all Rotary members and participants and includes access to the virtual House of Friendship.

FORG will have a booth in the virtual House of Friendship, so please check us out!

Don't forget to visit the [convention event page on Facebook](#) to connect with others and stay up-to-date on event news and program highlights!

[Register today and save!](#)

Conferences/Classes

[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 on virtual conferences both free and paid.

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

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

2022 May 25-28, National Genealogical Society Family History Conference [Our American Mosaic](#), Sacramento, CA

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center [Free Webinars](#)

Lisa Louise Cooke Free [Google Earth for Genealogy Video Class](#)

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society [Upcoming Webinars](#)

Message from your Webmaster

Lawrence "Tris" Tristram lgtforg@gmail.com

Up-date: Over Easter I was told of a problem with the links between pages. After a day of checking and testing, I narrowed the problem to a plug-in that had just been updated. Therefore, I was able to contact the writer and he corrected it for me. We are now running smoothly.

I am mindful of the privacy we need which is why we have a secured site (you can see this by the padlock symbol adjoined to the site url.) and I have a plug-in to limit login attempts. If a person attempts to login with an incorrect password they are allowed 4 re-tries after which they are locked-out for 20 minutes, after 4 lockouts the lockout time is increased to 24 hours! I consider this should deter most people.

Members Area: I would like to remind you that in the members area 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 appear in the profiles in the Member List and I encourage you to add these details by editing your profile. It may be that someone else may be researching a name you have an interest in and you can 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', following which you can make contact and possibly learn something new!

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.



The Wandsworth Homes Attacked in the WWI “Lusitania Riots”

Wandsworth High Street from TheGenealogist's Image Archive



TheGenealogist has a wonderful [article](#) and [video](#) regarding new records that have been added to their database. These records add 143,956 individuals to the Lloyd George Domesday records and link maps on their Map Explorer for Balham, Battersea, Fulham, Hammersmith, Putney & Roehampton, Streatham, Tooting Graveney and Wandsworth.

How to Find and Use the Unique, Early U.S. Census Records of 1790 to 1830



Bridget M Sunderlin, Family History Daily, [has written an article](#) on how to get the most from these earlier census records which only list the surname and number of members in the household, both free and slave. She advises that these records need to be used in conjunction with other records and are helpful in finding other families with the same surname and members who later marry into the family.

Free E-Book from Thomas MacEntee

Printed with Permission from Thomas MacEntee

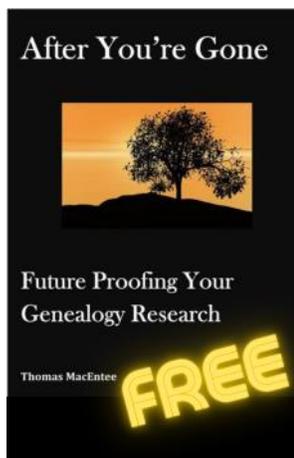
During my April webinars, one of the topics consistently raised during the Q&A period is this: **How can I pass my genealogy research on to a family member or donate it to an organization?**

All genealogists should be concerned about leaving a legacy through their years of research. This is another “I don’t want to deal with it” project that continuously gets pushed off to tomorrow. The truth is: life is tenuous and death can be unexpected. Will your family simply throw away all your research, records, and more? Will they follow any directives left in your will?

There are many ways you can “future proof your genealogy research” as I call it. I want my followers to talk about this topic and make suggestions on the best ways to preserve your family history work. So, I’m providing FREE ACCESS to my e-book [After You’re Gone: Future Proofreading Your Genealogy Research](#).

What plans have you made for preserving your years of genealogy research? What will happen to your research once you die?

As always, I am humbled by your support. Thanks for following and please stay safe and healthy!



11 Best Genealogy and History YouTube Channels



If you watch many videos on YouTube, you are probably aware that there are tons of different channels out there. Andrew Koch from Family Tree Magazine helps us find [the best channels for genealogy and history](#), including well-known channels and adding some newer content.

Karma

Gordon Seyffert, VP & editor Immigrant Gen. Soc. of Burbank, CA, and FORG member



Two years ago I went to attend my first German “Genealogy Day” conference, an annual event of the DAGV (Germany’s umbrella organization of genealogical societies, similar to our own FGS). I was spending a month in Germany, staying with Dirk Weissleder (and his family) — whom some of you met at the RI Convention in Hamburg. I thought I was prepared for everything, but a week before my plane left for Germany, my “good” knee gave out without warning. I was hobbling around here in L.A., but could try to stay off my feet. In Germany, however, it was another story. Dirk lives on the top floor of his building, and there is no elevator. And as you may know, in Germany one walks everywhere (as a rule).

As a part of my planning, I had arranged to do some personal research in Perleberg, a city northwest of Berlin where my great-grandfather had been born. The LDS Church had been unable to film church books there, and Archion (the Protestant Church online archive) had not yet gotten around to digitizing records for that region. So, knowing there would be a four-day period during my stay when I would have to shift for myself (because Dirk & family had other plans), I had chosen to make hotel and travel reservations to do this research myself despite my poor command of German.

But as the days progressed, I developed a nasty rash below that suddenly-afflicted knee, the result of poor circulation, as it turned out. At the time, however, we did not know if my condition might worsen, so I cancelled that research trip. In the former DDR, where people had learned Russian instead of English, I did not want to find myself suddenly hospitalized with no friends close-at-hand. Research? Poof! These things happen, I consoled myself.

Fast forward to this pandemic summer. Dirk is hard at work researching his distant relative who came with the Hessians to Canada in 1776, was captured at Saratoga, found his way to Manchester, MD in late December 1778, and eventually founded the American Whiteleather clan that settled in eastern Ohio in the first years of the 19th century. And I have been helping him, especially in researching that soldier’s American-born German wife, whose family arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738. I have scanned and sent Dirk dozens of pages from books in my own personal library, and from the library of the Immigrant Genealogical Society, so that he may better understand conditions here for German immigrants arriving at Philadelphia in those years.

Then, this past Sunday, I joined him in a Zoom meeting of the 123rd annual Whiteleather Reunion, at which he presented two brief slide presentations. One related to the departure of this Brunswick soldier from the small port of Stade, west of Hamburg, in the summer of 1776. The other recounted what we have found thus far on the family of this eventual Whiteleather wife and mother. These presentations were seen by roughly sixty descendants, and have renewed research interest on at least the part of some of them.

Dirk was grateful for my support, and later that Sunday announced a surprise for me. In return for my hard work on his behalf, he is returning the favor by arranging for the treasurer of the German Weissleder family association, a man who lives outside of Berlin, to drive the hour-and-one-half to view the records I need — which are still located in that city, not in a distant archive.

Karma — it’s great! By the time you read this I should have names, dates, and relationships I only dreamed about two years ago. It’s “connections” like these that make our hobby so rewarding! And as for the knees, I had double partial knee replacements a few months after my return, and now I can’t tell I ever had anything wrong with either of them....

Speaking of the Pandemic—Unmasking Pandemic Masks, Then and Now



In [Unmasking Pandemic Masks, Then and Now](#), Talya of MyHeritage Blog compares attitudes toward mask wearing during the 1918 Spanish flu and today’s COVID-19 pandemics using old newspaper articles.

Tell Us ... Win a Gift Card

“It’s a Small World” so tell us your stories about finding out that a distant relative was found to live in close proximity to you.

Submissions should be in article form ready for publication. Winner will be voted on by the Board. Winner will be published and will win a \$25 gift card. Deadline for submissions is May 30. Send articles to Sue Beety at secretary@rotariangenealogists.org.

Memories.....

From Our Files

May 9 is Mother's Day – what a great time to visit with your mother or share memories of your mom with your family.

Many times, we don't know how to start the "memory sharing" conversation with our senior relatives. Instead of saying, "tell me a story about when you were little..." why not try triggering a specific memory. If you are the senior relative, tell your own story. As genealogists we sometimes get so focused on our ancestors that we forget to record our own stories.

A friend told me recently about a Christmas gift story. She told me about the beautiful toy chest that her grandfather had crafted just for her. Once it was finished, her grandmother remarked that her mom was going to be thrilled with the gift from Santa. My grandfather responded, *"The toy chest is not from Santa. I spent a lot of time making it; it's from me."* Whenever I think about this story, I can't help but smile!

If you are having trouble moving the conversation forward, here are some starter questions that you can use. The beauty of starter questions is that the answers have tentacles that can lead to other stories. Start specific – then expand. Use: Who, What, Where, When, Why and How. To encourage more dialogue, try to avoid using "yes/no" questions. Open ended questions should stimulate some interesting conversations.

What is your favorite memory of your mother?

- What was your favorite Christmas gift? What made it so special?
- When you were little, where did you and your family go on vacation? What did you like to do when you were there?
- Who taught you how to drive a car? Do you remember the make/model of your "practice" car?
- What was your first real job? How did you land it?
- What was your nickname when you were growing up? How did you get it?

Share these memories with others, so be sure to either write them down or record them and find a way to safely save them. Happy Mother's Day!



Victorian Calling Cards



[Let Me Leave You My Calling Card](#) from Fishwrap, the official blog of Newspapers.com, talks about a fascinating social custom from the Victorian era. Calling cards, or visiting cards, represented a way to announce a visit or relay other important information.

Family Cobbler Recipes May Hold Clues to Your Roots



[This article/podcast](#) is brought to you by [Ancestralfindings.com](#). It discusses the history of cobblers, which goes back to the first settlers in the United States. They used whatever items they had on hand. There may be other ingredients, but all cobblers require fruit, butter, flour and sugar, except some British versions which are also discussed. [This article](#) will describe the difference between and origins of crumbles, a brown betty, grunts, slumps, pandowdies, sonkers, birds' nest pudding, and savory cobblers.

If you have a cobbler recipe that has been passed down through your family, please submit it to the newsletter and tell us the history of your family and this recipe.

Family Recipes

Grandma Jettie's Pecan Pie

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup dark corn syrup
- 3 eggs (slightly beaten)
- 1 unbaked pie shell
- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup broken pecans

Instructions

1. Boil sugar and syrup together for two minutes.
2. Pour this mixture slowly over eggs, stirring vigorously.
3. Add butter, vanilla, and most of the pecans (save a few).
4. Pour mixture into unbaked pie shell.
5. Add remaining nuts to top as a dressing.
6. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 50-60 minutes.



Bill Harvey, FORG President

Grandma Jettie's Pecan Pie was a family favorite. This simple recipe for the southern US delicacy was likely a variation of a recipe that was handed down through a few generations of Jettie's maternal ancestors (mother to daughter) in what I call the mid-south (the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oklahoma), before Jettie started making it on a regular basis. When Jettie was asked to submit a recipe for the cookbook of her beloved Parkside Baptist Church in Omaha, this was the one she chose.

Grandma Adams' War Cake

Ingredients

- 1 cup raisins
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tbsp lard
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tbsp cloves
- 1 cup water (or 1 1/2 cups sour milk)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp allspice
- Nuts to suit

Instructions

1. Mix all ingredients together. Mixture will be thin.
2. Bake in a glass pan at 325 degrees for 50 minutes or until done.

Bill Harvey, FORG President

This is a recipe for a cake made without eggs or butter, and potentially without milk or using only sour milk. The recipe calls for lard (clarified pork fat), but Jettie would substitute shortening. This was a recipe told to Jettie by her mother-in-law (my great grandmother), Mary (Huff) Adams, who had made this cake during the first World War (and possibly at other difficult times) when refrigerated dairy products might have been hard to come by. You will notice the directions are relatively spare as well – I guess Grandma Adams knew what she was doing and figured you did too.

