

The Rotarian Genealogist

SEPTEMBER, 2022 | FIRST QUARTER 2022-2023

Notes from our President

How lucky can you get! FORG has so many benefits to offer that it can be a valuable resource for you regardless of your personal level of expertise in researching your genealogy. I consider myself as a beginner but then I remind myself that at one point everyone was a beginner. Some of us have had other family members start on the family lineage and pass it on, while some of us are starting from scratch. I am the latter of the two.

Sometimes it gets overwhelming for me but I am anxious to solve the puzzle and find that distant relative. I enjoy paying close attention to the names and the information on the census, especially the occupations.

Not only am I relatively new at genealogy but I am also exploring my artistic side. From a census, I found that a distant grandfather from England was a lamplighter. So, I decided to paint a stone entry with a street lamp in honor of him (see picture to the right).

Currently in my family tree I can account for 331 family members. I don't know if that is a lot or a little but I am back to 1746. What I do know is that I am off to a good start thanks to FORG. My pursuit continues.

I hope you will share your tips, tricks and experiences with all of us. How many people are in your tree? How far back are you? Did you start from scratch or have family assistance?

I look forward to hearing from you.

YIRS, Sue Weber



England/NW Europe 26%

Ireland 23%

Scotland 22%

Germanic Europe 20%

Wales 7%

Norway 2%

Surnames: Weber, Bowler, Holzer, Kelson, Bowler, Smythe

331 people in my tree Going back to 1764

Governing Board

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FORG Family Reunion Meeting



13 August 2022

7:30 pm London Time

1:30 Central Time

2:30 Eastern Time

Sherman McRae Family Tree DNA

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 845 0363 4119

Passcode: 832826

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

Sherman is an experienced Genealogist specializing in African American Genetic Genealogy and Research primarily within the Carolinas and serves as a Co-Admin on the Em2, and the A-YDNA Haplogroup project. He has a special interest in the Genetic and Scientific Advancement of Africans and the people of the diaspora in hopes of bridging the genetic divide and discovering new haplogroups that exist in undertested populations.

Sherman has been working for Family Tree DNA the Groups Department acting as a liaison between the Researchers and the company, as well as doing national lectures on how to use DNA testing for Genealogy. In addition, he assists the Research & Development Dept at Family Tree DNA with various projects within the company.

Sherman McRae was born and raised in Thomasville, NC, and attended North Carolina Central University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2006 and is a Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. Sherman worked in Education prior to joining Family Tree DNA in March 2018.

FORG Calendar

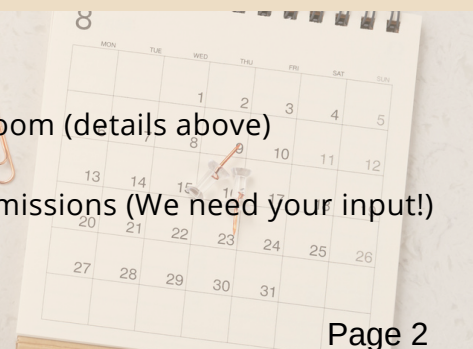
13 August Family Reunion Meeting via Zoom (details above)

15 October Board Meeting via Zoom

15 October Deadline for Newsletter Submissions (We need your input!)

01 November Newsletter Distributed

12 November Family Reunion Meeting



Our New President - Sue Weber

Sue's answers to questions polled from Rotary International for the fellowship article in Rotary Magazine.

Please give your full name and Rotary Club: Susan Weber, Rotary Club of Annapolis



- **How many years in Rotary?** 10 years
- **How many years in the fellowship?** 2 years
- **What do you get out of being in it?** A wealth of knowledge from the professionals in tracing my family history.
- **What is a fun story or anecdote about the fellowship you would like to share?** We are lucky enough to have professional genealogists all over the world. I reached out to Tris, a professional in the London area. I was stumped by my paternal great-grandmother, the data was showing that she was involved with 3 different Williams and associated with 15 children. In all the family dinners that I was a part of, I never heard stories of any of this. After weeks of being caught in an endless web; Tris was able to set me straight in 48 hours. The results revealed that she was only married once, to William #1 with whom she had 2 children, She kicked him out of the house for betrayal and had 2 children with William #2. He passed away suddenly, so she then had one child with William #3 and lived happily ever after. The third time's a charm.
- **Tell me a brief story about your interest in genealogy. When did it start and how? Why is it important for you?** I was hooked the minute my Uncle handed me my maternal family history going back to the mid-1600s. I love seeing the names and occupations of my ancestors. With the advances in technology, I hope to trace the Wilson clan back even further. On my paternal side, I am starting from scratch.
- **What is your most cherished memory related to genealogical research - an unforgettable moment of family connection.** Most of my family were hard-working farmers, restaurant owners, and bootleggers. They sold their brew to the lawyers, judges, and policemen. One of the chores for the children was to scoop the foam off the vats hidden in the basements.
- **How far back can you trace your ancestry?** the Smythe clan goes back to 1644
- **Are you a direct descendant of a famous historical figure?** Not yet.
- **Fill in the blanks: To me, genealogy is** priceless and Rotary is invaluable, both touching the lives of many.
- **What would you like your fellow Rotarians around the world to know about the fellowship?** Don't hesitate to look into your family's past. It is not overwhelming because you can do as much or as little as you want, and at your own pace. It is a remarkable gift to share with your current and future family members. In fact, what better gift is there?



Houston Convention

By Immediate Past President Bill Harvey

It was great for FORG to be back in person at The Rotary International Convention in Houston! We had a very active booth during the convention. Our theme was "Imagine Yourself in the Rotary Family Tree." We had a large banner with a photo of a tree and as members and visitors stopped by we took their photo, printed it, and pasted it on the tree banner. That system gave us a great way to engage with existing and new members, and we kept busy throughout the convention. Special thanks to Sue Beety, Luanne Newman, Gretchen Harvey, Jane Peters, Birda Gaskin, Susan Fievelstad, Al Brothers, Cecily Kelly, and everyone else who stopped by, pitched in, and helped. Thanks also to our other Board members who either helped with convention matters remotely or helped with the Virtual Booth.

We also had a great turnout, more than 60 people, for our live and virtual meeting on Beginning Genealogy, which generated a lively discussion and many follow-up questions.

Gretchen and I are registered for the Convention in Melbourne next year. We hope to see you in Australia!





The 2022 Convention: FORG Booth in The House of Friendship

By Board Member Luanne Newman

I believe I died and went to heaven, for five days in June. Ok, I guess that may be a tiny exaggeration, but what I experienced at the George R. Brown Convention Center was pretty amazing.

If you're at all like me, you enjoy genealogy. When you discover a new ancestor or cousin, you do a Happy Dance. When someone asks you about your research, you get enthused. That is what "manning the booth" was like at our fellowship booth at the RI Convention, and so much more. People were extremely friendly! They often said hi, even if they weren't stopping at our table. You must understand, the House of Friendship "housed" not only fellowships, like ours, but also Rotary Clubs and vendors, too. These people who passed our table had a LOT to look at, and their time (and energy) may not have been unlimited.

Working side-by-side with Bill Harvey and Sue Beety was the best and surpassed what I had expected. The booth was designed with a variety of things to look at, including Paul Harris's Family Tree, and two large banners with a great empty tree, soon to be filled with our members' photos, and pictures of any Rotarian or visitor to our table. Bill had planned well and brought the appropriate technology to print any photo we took. These were posted ASAP so that visitors could return to the table and smile to see their photo, part of our Great Tree of the Family Rotary. Other members and friends assisted us at the booth to give the best customer service experience we could offer.

Answering questions about our organization was predominant, including our membership benefits and dues. Other discussions involved methods of search, software used, countries of origin, famous cousins, and so much more. Italian speakers or German speakers piqued my interest as we forged into a conversation in their native tongue.

The international organization of Rotary has much to offer, including leadership opportunities, service to others, and educational speakers, just to name a few. My suggestion to you is....get involved! Attend gatherings and fundraisers, take advantage of training classes, visit other clubs --- both in your area and when you travel out of your area. Let Rotary enrich your life. And have a great time climbing that family tree!

New Member Bio - Christopher Lindell



I'm Christopher Lindell, a 2nd generation Rotarian of 33 years, who's been a member of 4 clubs, served as President of one and was a member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland in New Zealand. Since retiring in early 2020, I've spent more time following my passions of bicycling, music, photography, and genealogy. Attending the recent virtual Roots Tech connected me to six Norwegian relatives whom I meet on Zoom every month or so. Our conversations have encouraged me to work with a professional genealogist to break through the brick wall to identify my Norwegian paternal grandmother's father. I live in Marion, Iowa, USA, have been married to my high school sweetheart for 45 years, and have 2 adult children. I look forward to sharing and learning from fellow Rotarians through the Fellowship of Genealogists.

New Member Bio - Thomas "Tom" Decker

Tom is new to Rotary as a member, but not to the concept of service. A man of faith, the father of four, a retired Federal Executive, a budding artist, and a new non-fiction writer has used his time since retiring in 2017 to restore mind, body, and soul through deep introspection and research into his genealogical history.

Tom's interest in genealogy stems from two events in his life; being the "whoops child", and losing his wife Erica to cancer while his children were young. The desire to know more of who and where he came from, and to be able to share with his sons the stories their mother could no longer share with them has spurred Tom's desire to find and share all the stories.

Tom spent thirty-six years working for the federal government in a variety of jobs and locales. For over 15 years Tom lived or traveled from Europe to Africa, from Central & South America to Central Asia, and the Baltic states following the fall of the Former Soviet Union in support of America's diplomatic and national security interests. Eventually family responsibilities required him to settle in Annapolis, Md. with his growing family. The 2009 death of his wife refocused Tom's efforts and in retirement he strives to find ways to serve and help others while pursuing daily goals to keep mind, body, and soul healthy.





Never Let a Chance Go By

By Member Beulah Gross

The value of researching apparently unimportant snippets of information was brought home to me quite forcefully when an idle comment resulted in a flood of fascinating information. My maternal grandmother, Henny Ausbruch nee Eliasov, arrived in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, from Libau on September 3, 1902, with her mother and five young brothers. She told us that she'd celebrated her nineteenth birthday, 12 August, during the voyage.

Throughout her long life, Henny often told her children and grandchildren stories about the family she had left behind in Libau (Liepaja): Riga and Berlin. These stories, enhanced by photographs bearing the names of the subjects, were the basis of my maternal family history.

Henny often related the story of her sea voyage from Libau to England and from there to South Africa. She occasionally mentioned, almost in passing, that she had arrived in Port Elizabeth during a fierce storm. No one ever asked her to elaborate on this, probably because she didn't seem to think it was important. Also, her stories were viewed just as stories, figments of her imagination.

In one of my numerous letters (this was before emails) to Liz E, my research contact in Port Elizabeth, I commented casually that we regarded this storm as family lore rather than fact. Within a fortnight I received from Liz a photocopy of the *Eastern Province Herald* published on September 3, 1902. It tells of the havoc caused by a hurricane, known as 'The Great Gale', which raged in the area from August 31 to September 2, 1902. The flowery, sometimes purple, prose of the article tells of horrific destruction and incredible heroism during the storm which killed 58 people, wrecked or sank 21 ships, and left ten ships still unaccounted for.

Liz also sent a photocopy of an article in the *Eastern Province Herald* dated September 5, 1992. This article commemorates the 90th anniversary of 'The Great Gale' and reproduces photographs of wrecks found on Port Elizabeth beaches after the storm had abated.



Both articles mention that passengers were transferred from the ships on a bosun's chair to a lighter which took them ashore and this jogged my memory. Henny had indeed described this several times, saying that she was the only one who had enjoyed this dangerous ride and wanted to do it again.

By a process of elimination, Liz discovered that Henny had traveled from England to South Africa in a Castle Line ship named Raglan Castle. She then found, in an old book someone was about to throw into the trash, a picture of a sister ship, Donottar Castle, and a list of the names and sizes of eighteen of the ships comprising the Castle fleet. According to this list, Raglan Castle was a mere 4324 tons.

This information added color and life to the family history. In particular, my beloved grandmother's diamantine life gained another facet that I have been privileged to share.

This surprising result from a chance comment has made me realize that every detail, however trivial it may seem, should be investigated to the fullest extent of the imagination and curiosity of all genealogy researchers.

Try it. You never know what you might find.





10 Historic Weather Events and How They Impacted Your Ancestors

Taken from article by Maureen A Taylor, Family Tree Magazine

"These 10 extreme weather events changed the course of US history. Learn how these events may have affected your ancestors' lives."

1815: *The Great September Gale*

1816: *The Year Without a Summer*

1868-1869: *Great Lakes Storms*

1873-1877: *Locust Plagues*

1888: *Fierce Blizzards*

1900: *Galveston Hurricane*

1925: *Tri-State Tornado*

1927: *Mississippi River Flood*

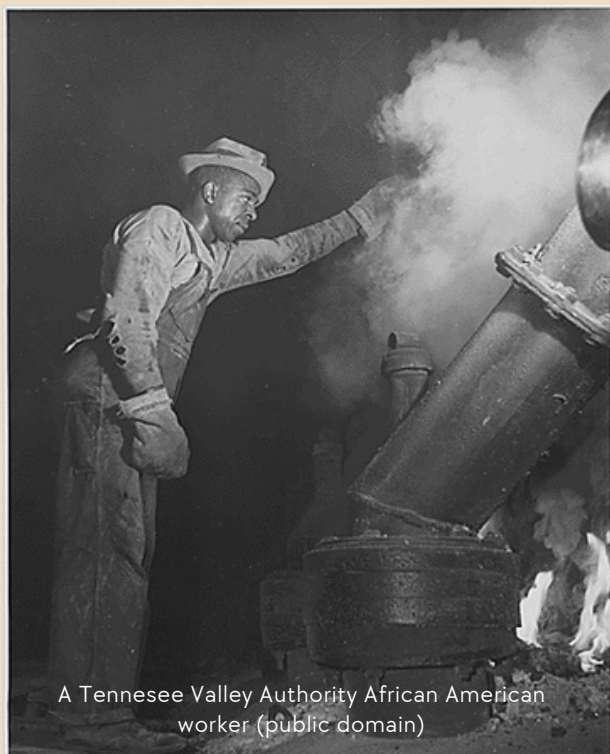
1933-1939: *Dust Bowl*

1937: *Ohio River Flood*

[Check out full article on the Family Tree Magazine website here.](#)

FamilySearch Wiki African American Genealogy

By Gena Philibert-Ortega, Internet Genealogy author



FamilySearch Wiki African American Genealogy is the starting point for most genealogical research and the Wiki is your guide. This wiki page is a must have with its links explaining record types that will help you research your African American genealogy. Don't forget to explore the Finding Aid links to places like archives and libraries and internet sources for even more resources. This wiki page and its links provide a book-length treatment on African American family history.

[Click here to go to the FamilySearch Wiki African American Genealogy page.](#)



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

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 "If I Had to Do My Family Tree Over Again, What Would I Do Today for my Genealogy Research". (used with permission from Connie Knox)



Questions to Use While Interviewing Family Members

My Heritage Free Download

"As genealogists, obtaining the information we want in the most efficient way possible is a high priority. When questioning family members, we need to be sure we are asking the right questions: ones that will get our relatives to paint as clear a picture possible of their past within the limited time we have to talk to them."

My Heritage has provided a [free download](#) which is helpful when interviewing family members. (The paragraph above is taken from the form itself.)



Perhaps someone can offer some advice. I have numerous old photos that need to be digitized/scanned. Is there a preferred method, such as a scanner or using a mobile phone/tablet? Is there a setup to minimize glare and shadows by taking a picture of a picture?

Thanks! Cheers, David S. Rosenthal, Rotary Club of Hampton Roads

Please send your responses to directora@rotariangenealogists.org and secretary@rotariangenealogist.org

Other Rotary Fellowships

We received a wonderful write-up in the June 2022 issue of the [Breadbasket](#), the Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI) newsletter. Other fellowships listed are [International Fellowship of Railroading Rotarians](#), [International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians](#), [Rotarians of Amateur Radio](#), [Rotarian Metalhead Fellowship](#), [Rotary on Pins Fellowship](#), [Rotary on Stamps](#), [Rotarians on Social Networks](#), [Whiskey Drinking Rotarians and Members](#), and the [International Fellowship of Rotarian Photographers](#). Other fellowships our board is involved in are: [Brew Fellowship](#), [Rotary Fellowship of Military Veterans](#), and [Rotary Global History Fellowship](#).

Easy Meatball Appetizer



Ingredients:

- 1 bag of cocktail size Italian meatballs
- In a crock pot on high, mix:
- 1 can jellied cranberry sauce
- 1 jar chili sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup orange marmalade
- 2 tble red wine vinegar
- 2 tble soy sauce
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes

Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients together except meatballs.
2. Add meatballs.
3. Stir.
4. Cook on low for 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.
5. Or, cook on high for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally.

Our front door is always open to family and friends. It seems to be a revolving door with people coming and going with a collection of shoes by the front door. This recipe has been a fan favorite of all that enter the kitchen. This recipe is easy enough for a small or large batch. I hope you enjoy it as much as we do.
Sue Weber, Fellowship President

Katie's Blueberries



- Get a bowl.
- Go to the freezer and open the bag of frozen blueberries.
- Scoop out as many as you want to eat.
- Sit down somewhere comfortable and eat them while frozen.
- They are just like mini-popsicles!

The story is that when Katie was little, she was somewhat of a choosy eater but she loved frozen blueberries. Our local blueberry farm used to sell "ready-to-eat" 10-pound boxes of blueberries. I would buy a whole freezer full every summer (several hundred pounds) and she ate the vast majority of them - one bowl at a time. Blueberries are supposed to be good for your brain and memory. She has a fantastic memory. If she ever meets you, she will never forget you. It must be the blueberries because neither my husband nor I can remember people, places, events, and dates as she can.

Member Judy Ginn