

# CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT  
2022 - 2023

From the President

Our shared interest in genealogy and family history connects each member of the Cranberry Genealogy Club. Our individual goals for research often overlap or may even match. Sharing successes, brick walls, resources, and experiences adds to each individual's bank of knowledge. Collaboration occurs naturally when genealogists meet. The various ways researchers collaborate can be surprising as well as helpful.

The 2023 year brought additional growth for the Cranberry Genealogy Club. We believe that one reason for this growth stems from the excellent, interesting programming we have been able to offer monthly. By continuing to utilize Zoom for virtual and/or hybrid presentations, our members can take advantage of opportunities to gather and learn. With the renovations ongoing at the Cranberry Public Library, the CranGenClub has moved in-person meetings to the Cranberry FamilySearch Center on the corner of Rochester and Powell Roads. We are grateful to our fellow genealogists who lead the FamilySearch Center in our area for permitting us to use facilities and technology for our monthly programs. Thank you especially to Toni von Rintelen, Gloria Mason, and Harry Karatassos for their support.

For the upcoming year, one key goal is to continue to encourage members to participate in new ways, whether through presenting programs, leading special interest groups, or serving in a leadership or volunteer role. With member submissions of genealogical brick wall scenarios particularly related to Irish research, the Cranberry Genealogy Club partnered early in the year with the ABC Family History Association of Northern Ireland to review scenarios and then to offer insight into available resources. This partnership began for CranGenClub through a cousin match, one cousin from each organization, and is now expanding to share programming and to connect for research assistance.

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During this past year we had two members introduce us to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for genealogical research and DNA analysis. This topic is rapidly exploding, and we are grateful to see demonstrations about using AI productively and to learn about the unbelievable possibilities for applications. Any topic that our members are interested in discovering can lead to informative, interesting learning experiences. Within our community, we participated in the Cranberry Diversity Day program, promoting genealogy and its resources.

As we continue in 2024 to promote family history and genealogy, we are dedicated to sustaining quality educational programs for all members. This will necessitate an increase in dues from \$12.00 (\$12.50 through PayPal) to \$15.00 for annual membership. This was not a quick decision to raise dues; however, the \$3.00 increase for 75 members equates to an additional \$225.00 of dues income. That is currently the amount that most professional genealogists charge for a one-hour program and this additional funding would go directly into providing an additional, high-quality professional speaker for us in 2024. The new fee for annual dues will go into effect on January 1, 2024. If renewing by December 31, 2023, you would pay \$12.00 for dues once more.

Thank you for your membership and interest in the Cranberry Genealogy Club of Cranberry Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania! We will continue to welcome genealogists and plan to provide learning experiences to support each member's genealogical research journey.

Sue Ennis,  
President, Cranberry Genealogy Club

# MONTHLY MEETINGS



October - Professional genealogist Peggy Clement Lauritzen shared a fascinating program, "Misbegotten Children: Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate."

November – A Few of Your Favorite Things – Members shared favorite genealogy tips, tools, websites and strategies. The discussion was facilitated by club member Rich Watson.

January – CGC member and Family History Center leader Harry Karratassos presented "Expand your View of Your Family Tree," demonstrating techniques for when you think your family your genealogy is done. or you're up against a brick wall.

February – Denys Allen is an expert on Pennsylvania genealogy research, the founder of PA Ancestors, and hosts a podcast on PA research. Her presentation, Four Collections in Archives to Complete Your Family History, had great information on getting more out of the PA Archives.

March – Cyndi Ingle, nationally-known creator of Cyndi's List, presented Cyndi's List in Practice. Her website, Cyndi's List, is a unique and invaluable resource for genealogists.

April – Mark Houser, author of Multistories, showed us a fascinating look at the history of Pittsburgh skyscrapers and the stories of the business tycoons behind them.

May - Jill Morelli, a professional genealogist, author, and blogger, teacher presented a very informative program on "Dissecting Civil War Pension Records: Confederate & Union."

June and July – We took these months off to allow members to attend the evening sessions of the esteemed Genealogical Research of Pittsburgh.

July – We manned a booth at Horse Trading Days in Zelienople, providing on-the-spot research and information on membership

July –A field trip to Detre Library and Archives in Pittsburgh resulted in some members finding genealogy gems, and all of us benefited from hands-on experience with Archives research.

August – The meeting was an informal social gathering at the North Boundary Park, with desserts, time for sharing, and a Pittsburgh trivia game.

September – Pam Israel from "Unlock Your History" and Robert Stakeley from the Heinz History Center presented information to help us with Germans to America research.

# MEMBER BENEFITS & EVENTS



The January and February sessions of Beginners and Beyond at the Cranberry Library featured Ron Morton conducting a workshop on getting the most out of Family Tree Maker software.

The ABC Family History Association in Northern Ireland and the Cranberry Genealogy Club met virtually on Saturday, January 21, 2023, to get acquainted, share project ideas, and ask and answer genealogical questions.

The Butler Eagle and the Cranberry Eagle featured our club in a newspaper article in April.

Twelve monthly sessions of Geneabreak, members-only virtual sessions with a brief lesson and much discussion afterward. This year, we focused on a specific country of origin at each meeting.

On the first Saturday of each month, members gather at Panera Bread in the Cranberry Mall for Brick Walls & Bagels. We informally discuss all things genealogy, get help with our brick walls, and share successes.

Ten newsletters were published this year for members of the Cranberry Genealogy Club. The newsletters include information about meetings and events of the Cranberry Genealogy Club as well as events throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. How-to articles, tech tips, book reviews are regular features in the newsletters.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the 2023 January through December membership year, the CranGenClub gained twelve new members for a total of seventy-nine, which includes three honorary members. Membership includes six out-of-state members from Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, and two from Texas. The Club has one out-of-country member from Northern Ireland. Nine 2022 members did not renew in 2023.

# TREASURY REPORT



The following assumes a reporting period of October 1 2021 though October 22 2022. CGC fiscal year is the calendar year. A fiscal report will be created in January.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Opening Balance October 1 2022                       | \$1,934.35  |
| Closing Balance October 22, 2022                     | \$ 1,581.35 |
| Outstanding Credits (dues/donations pending deposit) | \$ 74.00    |

| 2021 Reporting Year Oct 1<br>– Dec 31, 2021 |                          | Credits (+) | Debits (-) | Totals      |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance                           |                          |             |            | \$ 1,205.23 |
|   | Dues and Donations       | \$ 478.00   |            |             |
|   | Honorariums              |             | \$ 150.00  |             |
| Ending Balance                              |                          |             |            | \$ 1,533.23 |
|   |                          |             |            |             |
| 2022 Reporting Year Jan 1-<br>Oct 22, 2022  |                          |             |            |             |
| Beginning Balance                           |                          |             |            | \$ 1,533.23 |
|   | Dues and Donations       | \$ 645.46   |            |             |
|   | Honorariums              |             | \$ 250.00  |             |
|   | Co-sponsorships          | \$ 100.00   |            |             |
|   | Printing/Signage         |             | \$ 132.08  |             |
|   | Internet / Zoom Services |             | \$ 328.43  |             |
|   | Book/Notepad sales       | \$ 14.00    |            |             |
|   | Taxes                    |             | \$ 0.83    |             |
| Ending Balance                              |                          |             |            | \$ 1,581.35 |

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|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Opening Balance October 1 2022   | \$1,934.35 |
| Debits                           |            |
| February - Denys Allen           | \$250.00   |
| March - Cyndi Ingle              | \$100.00   |
| April - Mark Houser              | \$250.00   |
| May - Jill Morelli               | \$100.00   |
| September - Unlock Your History  | \$140.00   |
| Reimbursements                   | \$203.71   |
| Debit Subtotal                   | \$1,093.71 |
| Dues and Donations               | \$808.67   |
| Closing Balance October 22, 2023 | \$1,649.31 |