

CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT
2021 - 2022

From the President

Each member of the Cranberry Genealogy Club values family, evidenced by our shared interest in genealogy. Whether our exploration begins with a mystery, a family event, DNA matches, an inherited photo or treasure, or the desire to discover traditions and culture, each of us is continually learning how to research. Our goals are diverse, yet unified. The process, the records, access to information, and methods for publishing might explain how genealogy is revealed. Yet there is always a new why - those questions for us to answer as we expand our family tree.

The 2021-2022 year brought added growth for the Cranberry Genealogy Club, both in the number of members and in the variety of programs and educational events. For the upcoming year, one key goal is to provide opportunities for members to participate beyond meetings. During this past year, we started this when two dozen members enthusiastically volunteered to review the 1950 U.S. Census, learning new procedures and discovering what information was presented. Working together, we helped to advance the indexing process for all genealogists. As we continue in 2023 to promote family history, genealogy, sharing stories, and the impact of history upon our ancestors, we look forward to acquiring more knowledge. We learn from many sources, including from each other.

This past week, I have had three connections through genealogy that provided sparks of enthusiasm for my own research. I helped a DNA match, my second cousin, once removed, to find out why she had so many DNA matches with the Williams surname, a name that did not appear anywhere in her excellent, well-documented genealogical research, conducted for 43 years. Of our shared matches, she and I were the only cousins with published family trees. Together we solved the mystery, and now one of my great, great uncles has descendants.

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Next, I reached out to a woman in Wales who had private trees that emerged from an online search, each containing photos of my Williams family. I shared some photos that I had as well as requesting copies of two photos for my own files. She and I are 4th cousins, she lives in our ancestral town in Wales, and our great, great grandfathers were brothers! We have much more information to exchange. Finally, I could not stop grinning while watching the lively, friendly interaction among members of the ABC Family History Association of Northern Ireland, as several of us waited for their virtual program to begin.

Your choice to be a member of the Cranberry Genealogy Club is greatly appreciated! Please continue to let us know your ideas for enhancing our member benefits. Every member has unique knowledge and experiences to be shared. Consider setting a new year's resolution or two for your own genealogical research, and then we can offer encouragement to achieve those goals.

Sue Ennis,
President, Cranberry Genealogy Club

MONTHLY MEETINGS



October – Successful Searching with Newspapers, by Sue Ennis, President CGC

November – The 1950 Census – Are You Ready?, by Thomas MacEntee, genealogy professional and creator of GeneaBloggers and High-Definition Genealogy website

January – Researching German Civil and Parish Records, by Alex Tolksdorf, genealogy professional who specializes in German and Eastern Europe research

February – Happily Ever After? Wedding traditions and marriage records, by Judi Boren, Program Chair CGC

March – Member collaboration on fraternal organizations; Live intro to ABC Family History Association from Belfast, Northern Ireland

April – Planning a Successful Research Road Trip, by Betty Steup, member CGC

May – Detre Library & Archives of the Heinz History Center, by Sierra Green, Archivist at the Heinz History Center

June - Pledging Brotherhood: An Introduction to Fraternal, Benevolent, and Secret Societies, by Jen Baldwin, Data Acquisition Manager for Find My Past

July – Virtual GRIP Presentations

August – Developing Good Research Questions, by Amy Arner, professional genealogist who specializes in Western Pennsylvania research

September – Getting More from Find-a-Grave, by Patty Robison, Secretary CGC

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The CranGenClub continues to grow. The Club gained 16 new members for a total of 75 members, including four honorary members for the October 2021 through September 2022 period. Five 2021 members did not renew in 2022. Membership includes five from out-of-state and one outside the US, as well as a handful of non-local Pennsylvania residents.

MEMBERS' EVENTS



NEWLETTERS

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.

GENEABREAKS

Twelve members-only Geneabreak meetings were held over the Zoom platform. These meetings consist of a prepared mini-lesson, usually about research skills or avenues for research. The informal exchange that follows is always informative and interesting.

BRICK WALLS & BAGELS

On the first Saturday of each month, members gather at Panera Bread in the Cranberry Mall to discuss all things genealogy. These gatherings are a great time to get help with brick walls and to share successes.

1950 CENSUS

Twenty-three members participated in indexing the 1950 census for Family Search. Upon release of the census, our club held a training session for members so we could hit the ground running. We indexed 23,203 names, reviewed 1,667 families, and reviewed 130 census headers. Our members helped make this census searchable quickly.

The Cranberry Genealogy Club and the ABC Family History Association of Northern Ireland have formed a partnership across the miles! This partnership will enhance research efforts for members of each club

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 2021	\$ 1,205.23
Closing Balance October 22, 2022	\$ 1,581.35
Outstanding Credits (dues/donations pending deposit)	\$ 74.00

2021 Reporting Year Oct 1 – 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- 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