

From The President — Continued from page 121

at the right time with a daughter Hattie who was born in 1891—the year before my great grandfather. Because of the difference in their ages, my grandmother probably called her cousin “Aunt Hattie,” and confused the names of the mother and daughter. Without this confused story, I would have been much less sure I had the right Mrs. Wright, and by then it was much too late to ask my grandmother.

Shortly after my uncle died last year, his oldest daughter asked my mother to record her memories from when she and her brother were growing up. My mother recorded several audiotapes with childhood stories. I had heard most of those stories before, but never bothered to take notes.

While my mother was recording her memories, she was diagnosed with cancer, and died a few months later. Listening to those tapes now, I know that they contain some errors—especially the last tape, made while she was waiting for her surgery to be scheduled, but I’m never going to have another chance to hear her tell them, so I’m incredibly grateful to my cousin for making the suggestion.

As for my grandfather’s descent from Odin, though I have recently made some progress in tracing his Norwegian ancestors, I don’t suppose I can ever prove or disprove his descent from Odin. I’m not casting the letter aside though—it provides insight into my grandfather’s personality and sense of humor.

So, find the time to ask relatives to tell and record their stories, and write down your own story, as well! Share the stories with other family members, and **consider submitting the results to the *Bulletin*** (if they relate to Prince George’s Co. families), or another genealogical society’s publication, if appropriate.



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN NEXT BULLETIN:

ORAL HISTORIES: ←
EASIER NOW MORE THAN EVER!



Christmas Luncheon 2008 Memories

Photos Courtesy Diane Stultz



Hearts & Flowers Karen Duffy Miles, Archivist



Get well wishes are extended to **Adele Worthington** who is recovering from a broken hip.

Condolences are extended to the family of **Bettie Ann Umstead-Witt** of District Heights who died February 18, 2009. She is survived by her husband **L. Edward Witt** and children **Theresa Grate, Karen Witt, Louis Witt** and **Alicia Clugh**. Bettie Ann was interred at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Rockville, Maryland.



Condolences are extended to the family of former PGC GS Librarian **Anne Seaton Milliken Herrick**, 78, who died on December 31, 2008. Anne was born in Hannibal, Missouri August 28, 1930 to **Lorena Belle** and **Merwin Milliken**. Her husband Dr. David E. Herrick to whom she was married for 55 years, and sons Thomas A. and James D. Herrick, daughter Virginia Herrick O'Hara, and grandsons Evan T. and Peter A. O'Hara survive her.



Anne Seaton Milliken Herrick

Anne received a BA in music from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas in 1953 and taught music at Concordia, Kansas High School before the family moved to Bowie in 1966. In Bowie she taught at Meadowbrook Elementary School from 1967 until her retirement in 1981. Her hobbies included basketry, textiles and genealogy. As a result of her extensive research, in 1993 Anne published a book on her family, *Descendants to the Present Day of Thomas Milliken, 1777-1845, Centre County, Pennsylvania, Fifth Son of Thomas and Mary (McConnell) Milliken, Tuscarora Valley, Pennsylvania.*

Anne was a vital and valuable asset to the PGC GS Library since its inception in 1981 until her retirement in 2005. As a Librarian Anne, accessioned books, organized family periodicals, spent numerous hours binding loose county and state genealogical periodicals, and assisted patrons and beginning genealogists.

In addition to the untold hours spent on these tasks, she contributed personal funds to purchase much needed shelving when expansion was necessary and funds were not available.

A viewing was held at the Beall Funeral Home on January 5th prior to funeral services and interment in Maple Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas on January 8th.

Above Photograph Courtesy James W. Reep

We Remember Them

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,
We remember them.
At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We remember them.
At the opening of the buds and in the re-birth of spring,
We remember them.
At the shining of the sun and in the warmth of summer,
We remember them.
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We remember them.
At the beginning of the year and at its end,
We remember them.
*As long as we live, they too will live:
For they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.*
*When we are weary and in need of strength,
We remember them.*
*When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.*
*When we have joy we crave to share,
We remember them.*
*When we have decisions that are difficult to make,
We remember them.*
*When we have achievements that are based on theirs,
We remember them.*
*When we fulfill their dreams, and our own,
We remember them.*
As long as we live, they too will live:
For they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.

By Rabbis Sylvan Kamens and Jack Riemer

Google™ Emerging Technologies

Earth

By William M. Wood - Editor

Many available tools to genealogical researchers are fairly conventional and are pretty-well tried and true: The Census, The Photos, The library, The City or Town Hall. But suppose you're planning a research trip to an area that you are *not* familiar? Maybe there's another available tool? A tool that could give you an advanced advantage!

Imagine having new tools to perform *advance research* of *where* you plan to travel, and get *current* historical and *news information* by just a few clicks from your home pc or laptop mouse! Off into the future? No, **now!** This online free resource recently offered on the Internet is called: **GOOGLE EARTH™**

How can **GOOGLE EARTH™** help in your Genealogical research, you may ask? What if after years of research about you family's history and how and where they lived long ago, you *finally* decide to **travel** to the homeland of your ancestor (s)? Even after deciding to take the trip, you may *still* have many questions that will employ the *same degree* of thorough research as you applied to your family histories.

GOOGLE EARTH™ can help you plan better for your family history trip, than you've *ever* planned a trip before!

- * Where am I going?
- * What are the roads like?
- * What accommodations can I expect?
- * What are the modes of local transportation?
- * What is the neighborhood like, and will I be safe?

GOOGLE EARTH™ allows you to fly anywhere on Earth to view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings, from galaxies in outer space to the canyons of the ocean.

You can explore rich geographical content, save your toured places, and share with others. Ultimately, once you've determined where you will be going, **GOOGLE EARTH™** allows you to zoom all the way to see the street from an *ants perspective!*



Which view do you prefer?

"With **GOOGLE EARTH™** you can fly like a super-hero from your computer at home to a street corner somewhere else in the world - or find a local hospital, map a road trip or measure the distance between two points."*

*Rosenberg, vice president, Product Management



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Gleanings Of The

Francis Gasch's Sons Funeral Home



Gasch's Funeral Home was founded by Ernst Franz Bernhard (Francis) Gasch. Francis was born in Doeblen, Saxony, Germany on November 26, 1830. Francis's father was a school-teacher, fluent in several languages.

Francis studied under his father until he was fourteen years old. Francis then moved to Frankenberg where he served for three years as an apprentice to a cabinetmaker.*

*<http://www.gaschs.com/>

One of the oldest funeral homes in the area that is still family owned is the Francis Gasch's Sons Funeral Home in Hyattsville, Maryland. This establishment has been in business since before the Civil War. Mr. Gasch received payment for his services in many forms in the early days. There are a few records indicating that he received farm produce as pay as well as services such as laundry, house painting, etc. People paid their debts as best they could when services were rendered and they had little money with which to pay. There are instances in the records that show folks paying one dollar a week until the account was settled.

Some entries in the records are labeled Unknown or Unknown Child. Stories about the unknown appeared in the daily newspapers like the one about the child found dead, floating down the Eastern Branch in a bag near Dr. Wells' dairy farm in 1896 and another of a child found frozen to death on the road. Mr. Gasch buried all these children for the county.

1890 RECORDS . . .

Batz, Johan A. 14 Jan 1890.

Jackson, Amilie 19 Jan 1890. Union Burial Association.

Name Not Given 28 Jan 1890. Child. Coffin and case, 2 ft. Frank **Wood**.

Name Not Given 04 Feb 1890. Child. Lizzie **Beckett**.

Bryant, _____, Mrs. 05 Feb 1890. George W. **Bryant**.

Shuster, J. C. 22 Feb 1890.

Lee, Thomas 21 Feb 1890. Sister, Ana **Lee**.

Name Not Given 21 Feb 1890. Frank **Wood**.

Name Not Given 22 Feb 1890. Child. George W. **Bryant**.

Williams, Mary F. 23 Feb 1890. Mills **Beaman**.

Name Not Given 24 Feb 1890. Infant. Charles E. **White**.

Maske, Carl, Mrs. 25 Feb 1890.

Hoggins, Louise 05 Mar 1890. W. N. **Young**.

Vanhorn, John 11 Mar 1890. Engaged by R. A. **Vanhorn** and brothers. Payments by R. A. **Vanhorn**, William

Vanhorn, and John **Vanhorn**.

Wallis, _____ 16 Mar 1890. Union Burial Association.

Name Not Given 22 Mar 1890. Child. Josephine **Berry**. County coffin.

Name Not Given 23 Mar 1890. Infant. Coffin, 2 ft. Frank **Wood**.

McNamee, John 29 Mar 1890. Father, Israel **McNamee**. 66

Jones, [Laura Lee], Mrs. 06 Apr 1890. [Husband] Rev. Thomas M. **Jones**. [Note: *Evening Star*, 05 Apr 1890, p. 5, reports died 04 Apr 1890, 1:00 p.m., at Sunnyside, MD. Funeral from Worthington Chapel [Beltsville, MD].]

Cross, Camilia [Mrs.] 10 Apr 1890. Mr. **Anderson**. [Note: *Evening Star*, 09 Apr 1890, p. 5, reports Mrs. Camillia

Cross died 08 Apr 1890 at the residence of her son-in-law. Age 82 yrs. Funeral from Whitfield M.E. Church, Lanham, MD.]

Name Not Given 18 Apr 1890. Infant. Mr. **Hoynes**, Branchville, MD.

Hoynes, Olive [M., Mrs.] 19 Apr 1890. John **Hoynes**. [Note: *Washington Post*, 19 Apr 1890, p. 2, reports died 18 Apr 1890 at the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. T. W. **Dwyer**, at Branchville, MD. Mass at St. Jerome Catholic Church, Hyattsville, MD. Burial Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. Wife of John **Hoynes**.]

PGCGS COUNCIL MEETING



By William M. Wood,
Acting Recording Secretary



Photo by Bill Wood

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society Council Officers convened their meeting, which was called to order on January 7, 2008 at 7:05 pm by Society President Heather Olsen.

Due to weather and illness, several members were not present for this meeting, including the Recording Secretary. William Wood volunteered to record the minutes for this meeting.

In attendance were: President Heather Olsen, First Vice President and Editor William M. Wood, Second Vice President and Membership Chair Dr. Thomas Shawker, M.D., Registrar Patty Shawker, CGRS, Publications Chair Diane Stultz, PGCGS Website Webmaster James Bowie, Past President Kent Kwiatkowski. Absent were Recording Secretary Karen Riekert, Corresponding Secretary Alice Nelsen, Treasurer Josie Beagle, Library and Society Archivist Karen Miles. The Recording Secretary's previous meeting's minutes and Treasurer's report were not able to be read, and were tabled until the next Council meeting.

President Heather Olsen requested reports from the committee chairs to be offered at this time. Membership Chair Tom Shawker reported that membership numbers have moved steadily downward.

Heather requested from Tom to know specifically where the drops in membership were occurring. Program Chair Heather Olden reported that at this time she did not have a firm schedule of speakers for the upcoming meetings.

Registrar Patty Shawker had no new items to report, and offered to speak at the April 2009 meeting. Publications Chair Diane Stultz had no new items to report. Exception added, was for a "Winter Special" to be included in the next Bulletin. Webmaster James Bowie had no new items to report. James was requested to make changes on the society's Website to reflect reorganization of two society officer assignments. One

was to list the genealogical exchanges as vacant. The other change was to reflect Bonnie Kryszak as the indexer. Archivist Karen Miles' (previously submitted) report was read. **Item one** of this report, was regarding a letter received from Pam Williams (City of Bowie), written to the society on September 23rd 2008. In this letter Ms. Williams requested our council consider whether we wished to become part of the Prince George's County Historic Sites Consortium. The letter stated that the Consortium is a group of about 15-18 sites whose mission is both educational and marketing in scope.

Item two of this report, was regarding a letter received from Colleen Formby, Maryland Room Librarian, Hyattsville Branch Library, written to the society on October 28th 2008. Ms. Formby wrote to us about the Maryland Day Genealogy Program sponsored by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System on March 25, 2009 at the Hyattsville Branch. In this 2 hour (7 to 9 PM) program, "presenters from the Genealogical society, and from the historical society would present a brief overview of what genealogical sources are available where in the county...possibly a brief overview of how to get started, etc., as well."

Both letters from the report of the Archivist were positively received and discussed and were mutually endorsed by attending council members as projects deserving further discussion and exploration. Old business items with respect to Budget Issues and Award Funding/status were not able to be discussed and were tabled until the next Council meeting.

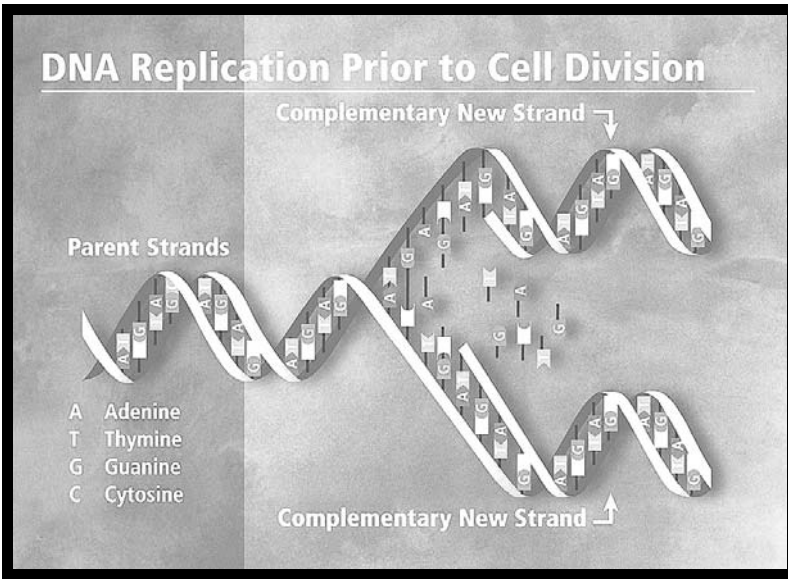
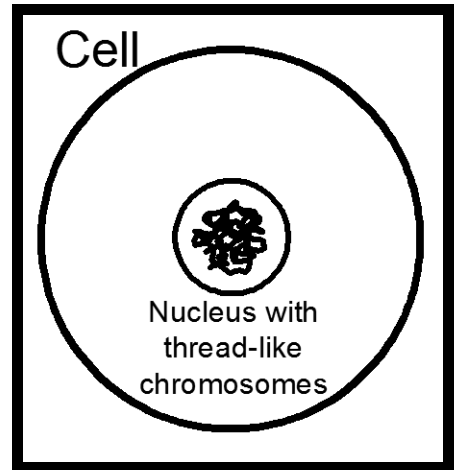
New Business included Heather announcing the end of her term as President in June, and asked Bill Wood if he had interest in following her term, at which point he affirmed his interest and intent to fulfill the next term as the Society's President. Bill Wood also indicated his interest to continue his service to the society as Bulletin Editor.

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Genetic Genealogy — Continued from page 135

DNA is found in the chromosomes within the cell nucleus. Most human cells divide during life to produce two new “daughter” cells. If cells duplicate, then DNA must also duplicate.

DNA duplicates by splitting the ladder in half. Since wherever there is an A, it must be matched with a T, and wherever there is a C, it must be matched with a G, the now split DNA can perfectly replicate itself into two identical DNA molecules.



While genes occur at various portions of the DNA molecule, large portions of DNA, however, are not genes. Certain portions of the DNA molecule with certain specific sequences of DNA bases are called “markers.” These have no known function and it is these markers that are used in genealogy. It cannot be stated too often that DNA testing for genealogy does not test your genes.

The genetic genealogy companies offer different number of markers for testing. The minimum is 12; the highest number currently offered is 67, probably with more to come. What these markers are will be discussed later. The specific markers tested in genealogy are found on one specific chromosome, the Y chromosome. What the Y chromosome is and how it is inherited is the subject of the next article.

To be continued...

Luncheon Continued from page 123



Here's to all of us being here to celebrate *again* Christmas 2009
Bill