Guide to Using FamilySearch.org
Genealogy Club of Maris Grove
Sept. 27, 2019

Background-For many years the Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, LDS) have made and shared microfilm copies of birth/christening, marriage, death and other genealogical records. They are now digitizing those records, indexing them and making them available on the Internet at their website, www.familysearch.org. Some are only a transcription of the record and some also include an image of the record. They have over 7 billion indexed records and 1 billion un-indexed.

Creating A FamilySearch Account, use this later to signin
Enter: first and last names, birth date, your ID (maybe email address) and create a password; then recovery options-how FamilySearch should contact you in case your ID or password are forgotten.

Guide to the main page. Across the top there are 4 Major selections, (Family Tree, Search, Memories and Indexing. Each has 4-6 sub- groupings as shown immediately below. Note-a search for a person's records may also cite a tree for them, if are any.

Family Tree
Tree-your personal tree or the tree for a person you are searching; there can be multiple trees for a person as they are creat supplied by different people
Person-your personal tree
Find-Search for a Person's tree
Lists-Names of people you are following and would like a notice if there are any updates for them
Booklet-FamilySearch.org will send one a Booklet on capturing and preserving your family history; also at this page one can start capturing and preserving their family history online at FamilySearch.

Search
Records-search for a person or search in a collection (2584 Collections, example 1860 US Censes, it has 27 million records)
Family Tree   same as Major Heading-Family Tree
Genealogies over the years LDS has had 6 databases: International Genealogical Index (IGI) was their original with 430 million entries by LDS members primarily birth/christening, marriage death; The Ancestral File has 40 million entries and ceased in 2003; The next was the Pedigree Resource File which has over a 100 million entries, it is growing but doesn't allow corrections or mergers; Community (Collaborative) Trees include links to source records and allows merging of trees; Partner Trees; Oral (personal stories)
Catalog-search the LDS library & other library for genealogical material (books, microfilm/fiche, publications)
Books-search in digital records in the LDS library and digital libraries world wide for almost any topic
Research Wiki-a guide that lists websites, provides research strategies, & suggests records & resources to help you find ancestors

Memories-Where people can post/share their photos, etc.
Overview-of Memory section
Gallery-post your photos
People-a list of your people
Find-photos, stories and documents

Indexing-Volunteering
Overview-microfilm records are being digitized & made available on the I'net, indexing is a key to accessing a record of interest
Web Indexing-where one does their indexing
Find a Project-Over a 100 projects in 20 countries
Help Resources-Indexing Guidelines, Handwriting and Languages

ILLUSTRATIONS
Personal Search-get documents (birth, marriage, death, etc) including Census image & image index, link to tree
Document Search-show PA & Del Co. wills/probate, naturalization, German Church records
Catalog/Book-Locate Book or Document, some fully digitized and available at FamilySearch
Tree-illustrate usefulness of Fan Chart Tree

Possible Future Programs

The Program Committee* recognized there are many good Genealogy videos the can be Club meetings programs. Some examples are:
"Great Courses" video ***"Discovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy"*** *15 30 minute topics (none on DNA) by John Phillip Collette (Fagerstrom comment-heard him years ago, he is a great speaker), $29.95 video download*

15 lectures | Average 31 minutes each

1	Interviewing Kin and Mining Home Sources	9	Your Ancestors in the County Courthouse
2	Genealogy Online—Gems and Junk	10	Your Ancestors in State Records
3	The Library—Shelves Full of Family History	11	How to Write Biography
4	Military Service and Homestead Records	12	Dos and Don'ts of Writing History
5	How to Build Historical Context	13	Searching in Your Ancestors' Backyards
6	Your Ancestors in Ship Passenger Lists	14	Assembling an Account of Your Discoveries
7	Your Ancestors in Naturalization Records	15	Extending Your Family Tree Overseas
8	The Genealogical Proof Standard		

There are many **Online Genealogy Videos** that we can **use/show as our monthly program** projecting onto big screen.
   A good example: Connie Knox at **https://GenealogyTV.org**, who says she'll *help you go further, faster, and factually with your family history research*, has over 50 Genealogy videos. A few are:
      3 videos on DNA (A Quick Start, Strategies the Pros Use, Which Test to Take),
      4 Videos on using Census Records,
      Immigration and Naturalization Records,
      New Tools at Ancestry.com,
      5 Tips on using Find A Grave,
      a number of tiny tips videos on restoring old photos (cracks, missing pieces, eyes, low contrast, …),
      Ethnic Research Topics (Italian, Polish, French-Canadian, Quaker),
      And the "FamilySearch" used in our Sept 27 meeting

Other Possible Club MeetingTopics
DNA and Ancestors [probably several programs: a basic, interpreting/using results and one that would appeal to non-club members]
Doing Ethnic Research offer to help Maris Grove German, Irish, & Italian clubs put on a meeting; we present common basics and
   then show a Video by expert on subject,   other ethnic possibilities: Jewish, English, Scandinavian
Using Newspapers [notably Newspapers.com; may have interesting personal stories (attended social, caught record number of fish)]
Using Ancestry.com [demonstrate/illustrate use, possibly using a task]
Regional Resources [Historical Societies of PA, Delaware Co., Concord Township Quaker records at Swarthmore & Haverford
   Colleges; Middletown Library, PA Genealogy Society, Court/Land/Probate Records, Frank Lees' historic Media photos,
Writing Family History [why do (pass on family history), how do (writing it, publishing it)]
Merits of Using Genealogy Computer Programs [many are free]
History
   -**Local** [Keith Lockhart (has collections & website), John Bullock (website Old Chester PA)
   -**Civil and Revolutionary Wars**
Using US Census Records
Using US Military Records
Using Local LDS (Mormon) Resources
Preserving Records (Paper, Photo,…)
Famous Ancestors & Royal Blood Lines of Club Members

* Program Committee Members: Margaret Kummerer, Kathy Link, Ruth McMillen, Pat Theodore and Bill Fagerstrom)