Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.

Malcolm Forbes
Inter-Generational Genealogy Forum
Discovering the German Heritage

Saturday, March 23, 2019
Today’s Presentation

• Introductions
• Generational Differences – Compare and Contrast
• German History
• Case Studies
• The Importance of Developing an Organization With Members From Each Generation
Speakers & Presenters

• Erin (Weckesser) Harris (Millennial)
• Garry Knight (Generation X)
• Judy Schneider (Baby Boomer)
• Rose Nolf (Silent Generation)
• Edgar Moorman (The Greatest Generation)
• Francesca Longo Franchina (MS Ed & Inter-Generational Liaison)
Speakers & Presenters

Erin (Weckesser) Harris – Millennial

Erin (Weckesser) Harris is a descendant of the Weckesser, Klump, and Clemens families which immigrated from Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany and Bavaria to in the Dayton area starting in the 1850s.

These German families lived and thrived as respected members of Montgomery County through public offices, entrepreneurs, church leadership positions and most importantly, patriarchs of their family.

As the internet and other technologies exploded around 2000, Erin was quick to adopt everything technical and has college degrees in Computer Information Systems Technology and Technical Sales & Marketing. Her first job was actually building computers at a local computer factory. She’s not much for coding but can work through using, building and maintaining websites, databases, graphic programs, etc.

Erin has experience working through online newspaper archives, cemetery, church, city and state records, as well as DNA data to conduct her genealogy research and loves to think outside the box when putting the lives of her ancestors together to retell their story.

Erin is a member of the Montgomery County and Ohio Genealogical Society where she has submitted numerous ancestors to the Settlers & Builder’s lineage society.
Garry Knight – Generation X

Garry was born in Mississippi in 1974 while his father was in Basic Training. When his father decided to leave the military in 1983, his parents returned home to Dayton, Ohio. He attended Dayton Public Schools and would often walk to school listening to cassettes on his “Walkman”. His parents had a second phone line installed just for internet access, because accessing the internet meant no one could use the telephone.

Garry graduated from the John H. Patterson Career Center (aka Patterson Co-op) in 1992. He went on to earn a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester in 1996.

His interest in genealogy began in 1995 following the death of his grandmother. During his now 24 years of research, he has endeavored to illuminate his family’s hidden and forgotten history. All of his known German ancestors are exclusively on his maternal side. These ancestors arrived in North America prior to the Civil War. One German ancestor arrived as a Hessian soldier during the American Revolution, while the most recent German arrival came to the United States in the 1850s.

As a member of several genealogical and historical societies, he enjoys sharing the joy of discovery with others. He views genealogy as a method to form a personal relationship with history and to those who lived before us, and genealogy societies as having the role of encouraging others to develop this relationship.
Judy Schneider, born Judy Fussner in Chicago in 1946, moved to Dayton in 1953.

Her Dad had German roots and her Mom was Irish (or so she thought! Turns out she had a lot of German, too.) Her husband, Carl, was born in Piqua, with a solid German heritage.

Her interest in Genealogy started when Carl's mom died in 1978, and she realized they had lost the link to her entire generation. Luckily, among his mother’s effects was a genealogy of some of Carl's ancestors which a priest had started as a retirement project.

Also, luckily, her Dad's sister, a nun, had started a family tree for the Fussner family. So Judy had two good jumping off points. Little did she realize what an obsession she had jumped into!

She began working on Carl's ancestors for two reasons - first, because both his folks were gone and she thought it was important to preserve their memory for their kids, and secondly, the necessary records were much more accessible in Miami, Shelby and Auglaize counties in 1978, than her own family's, which were in Chicago, St. Louis and Mississippi.

Judy is amazed at how much different - and easier - research is now than when she started! Sites like Ancestry.com and Family Search were unheard of. Heck --- personal computers were unheard of back in the day!
Rose Nolf - The “Silent Generation”

As a member of the Silent Generation, Rose Nolf believes that actions speak louder than words. She has been the driving force behind Eintracht German Club, serving as its President for the past several years.

She and her husband, Hal, have always been active members at Christ Lutheran Church. She is also heavily involved in the German contribution to World A'Fair and the Oktoberfest hosted by the Dayton Art Institute.

She believes in service, especially in the kitchen, where hearts are filled more than stomachs. If words must be spoken, then it is best to speak them in the form of art, poetry, or music. According to Aldous Huxley, "After silence, that which comes closest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Rose is privileged to be part of today's panel even though she is Irish.
Edgar Moorman - The “Greatest Generation”

Edgar (Age 99 & 10 months old) was born during WWI on 5/11/19 (during the Armistice, after the fighting stopped but before the treaty was signed) and is also a veteran of World War II, serving as a technical sergeant in the Army in the 2nd Battalion, 136th Field Artillery, 37th Buckeye Division.

He was married for 52 ½ years to Mary Magdalene (Peggy) Shay Moorman whose family resided a few blocks away near 5th and Wayne on Jackson St. They had their wedding reception in 1947 at today’s site which was then simply Turner Hall. He was blessed with 12 children and worked for Borden’s Dairy starting in 1948 which was located near the Arby’s on the other side of the Oregon District and they still had horses at the Dairy which were stabled in the same building where Clear Channel now resides.

Edgar has never owned a credit card or a computer and he prefers the original e-mail, envelope mail and face to face conversations. He remembers growing up on a farm and was born at home with a midwife in Frenchtown, OH. He traces his German Heritage to great-great grandfather Bernard Moorman who was born in 1809 in Oldenburg, Germany and is buried at Calvary.
Speakers & Presenters

Francesca Longo Franchina, MS Ed & Inter-Generational Liaison

Francesca knows the value of Intergenerational Healing in the well-being of families, communities and congregations.

Francesca was born into Dayton's East End Community which was comprised of German, Irish, Italian and Appalachian Americans. She grew up in family fruit markets and their Longo's Twinkle Inn Italian American Restaurant, all on Linden Avenue.

Dealing with all religious backgrounds and walks of life, she taught at Eastmont and Kemp School after graduating from Julienne High School and the University of Dayton, earning an MS in Educational Counseling and Human Services is a certified Pastoral Telecommunicator and received a certificate from the University of Dayton International Marian Research Institute in Religious Studies doctoral work. Fran is a lifelong member of St. Joseph Parish, Dayton, Ohio.

Today, Francesca is an intergenerational educator, counselor, consultant and independent mass media producer and programmer on World Family Radio Maria Satellite Radio Network. She is also an experienced life coach, president of Franchina Communications International, LLC and director of the TYBO-TOTL Institute presenting seminars, retreats and conferences for education, business, ethnic and religious groups for all ages.

Her radio show "Hearty Recipes for Life, Love, Peace and Healing" airs weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. EST on www.radiomaria.us, a free app for mobile phones.
1. The “Greatest Generation” – Born in 1924 and earlier
2. The “Silent Generation” – Born 1925-1945
The “Greatest Generation” – Born in 1924 and earlier

The oldest living generations is known as the “Greatest Generation” because of their perseverance through difficult times as a testament to their extraordinary character.

People born in 1924 and earlier would be at least 94 years old. They could be your parents, grandparents, great grandparents or maybe even a person’s 2nd/3rd great-grandparents.

Milestones of the Greatest Generation

• The Great Depression
• Fighting in World War II and firsthand memories of World War I
• Women winning the right to vote
• Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma becoming states
The “Silent Generation” – Born 1925-1945

The term “Silent Generation” comes from this generation’s focus on careers over activism. As young adults during the McCarthy Era, many members of the Silent Generation felt it was dangerous to speak out.

Milestones of the Greatest Generation

• The Great Depression and WWII
• The threat of nuclear war with Russia and Cuba
• Fighting in the Korean War
• The invention of the analog computer
Baby Boomers – Born 1946-1964

The baby boomer generation makes up a substantial portion of the world’s population and represents nearly 20% of the American public.

After the end of World War II, the United States was thriving economically. The soldiers were home from war and it was time to move on with their lives.

It’s estimated that 75.4 million births occurred during this generation which is how the term “baby boom” came to be.

Milestones of the Baby Boomers
• Korean and Vietnam War
• Civil Rights Movement
• The Cold War
Generation X – Born 1965-1980

Generation X arrives during a time of shifting societal values and major advancements in technology.

Generation X is also known as the "idealistic generation" as they encourage the celebration of individual effort and business risk-taking.

As a result, this generation is a renaissance of entrepreneurship in economic life, even as overall confidence in economic institutions declines.

Milestones of Generation X

• Man Landing on the Moon
• Woodstock
• The beginning of video games
Millennials – Born 1981-1997

Millennials catch a lot of slack from previous generations for their perceived sense of entitlement and lack of ambitions.

Compared to the generations before them, they have not experienced the severe hardships such as war, crushing economic depressions or the political and social conflicts of previous decades.

With a population of 83.1 million and represent more than one quarter of America’s population, their size exceeds that of the 75.4 million baby boomers and are more diverse than the generations that preceded them, with 44.2 percent being part of a minority race or ethnic group.

Milestones of the Millennials
- The fall of the Berlin Wall
- The Y2K scare
- The Internet as we know it today
- September 11th and the War on Terrorism
Germany Throughout History – 1871-1918
Germany Throughout History – 1918-1945
Case Studies

• Public vs Private Family Information
• How and why did name changes occur?
• DNA
• Inter-generational healing
• Life experiences
• Catholic vs Lutheran History of Germany
Case Study - Public vs Private Family Information

Should information and stories about a family be confidential?
Case Study – DNA

What happens when DNA reveals family stories that were meant to be private.
Case Study – How and why did name changes occur?

For example the Behrman family changed their name to "Beerman" once they came to America.
Case Study – Inter-generational Healing

How can we be sensitive to traumatic events and maintain professionalism in doing Ancestry?
Case Study – Life Experiences

What has your life experiences taught you and what do you want to pass down to the next generation?
Case Study – Catholic vs Lutheran German History
The Importance of Developing an Organization With Members From Each Generation