



Research Committee Annual Report July 2004

Submitted by

Gene Pennington, Research Director

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Introduction

*"As genealogists we work in the present, studying the past to share in the future. How we do it today will be tested by our descendants tomorrow."*¹

What a year we've had! It is my hope that we don't see any more years like this past one again. I don't know when the Pennington Research Association has ever lost as many Board Members in one year as we did.

First, in late July, we lost Dick Bailey, an Honorary Member who helped create the Pennington Research Association. Then Flo French (Secretary and Sales Manager) resigned to take care of her husband. Then we were shocked with the death of our Vice President, Rod Swanson in October. These events were shortly followed by Alice Sanders resignation due to health challenges.

Our Pennington Research Association members showed their strengths when several of them stepped in and filled the vacant positions on our Board. They willingly accepted the challenges facing us and have worked very hard to help us meet our stated goals and objectives.

For this, any much more, I want to express my gratitude for all of the hard work by all of the members of the Board this past year. I believe we have made some very significant gains towards realizing our mission, goals and objectives and this would not have been possible without the Board's leadership.

The DNA Study has moved into a new Phase and there will be a major announcement by Nick Penington at our 2004 Reunion/Meeting about our Family Groups and their progenitors. Last year we gained more information from the DNA Study and traditional genealogical research that should help to foster the merger of several of our Family Groups.

We created and opened our new website for the John French Master File (JFMF) and it is now available to all PRA members. As of June 4, 2004, there were 153 members using this new website. This was made possible by some hard work by our Assistant Research Director Carmen Johnson with help from Rene'e Davis. The JFMF is on a website on www.MyFamily.com.

¹ Quote from John Vincent Wylie, Professional Genealogist in an article written in *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, July/August 1998, page 223.

This report reflects the abilities and qualities of the members of the Research Committee. Without their skills, tireless efforts, dedication and concern for the PRA, none of our successes would have been achieved.

I want to mention the hard work and dedication by our Assistant Research Directors, the Chairman of the DNA Committee and our Obituary Database Editor. The PRA is indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding Team.

- Carmen Johnson -- Responsible for the John French Master File (JFMF) and our new website on MyFamily.com. Carmen is also the Group Leader for Group 7.
- Rene'e Davis -- Responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders. Rene'e is also the Group Leader for Group 9.
- Nick Penington – Chairman of the DNA Committee. Nick is also the Group Leader for Group 33.
- Margaret E. Wood - Obituary Database Editor (Her report is included in this year's Research Committee Report)

Projects

The Research Committee made significant progress this past year. Our major projects to work on this year and their status are:

- Maintain the PRA website – On-Going
- Open the new website for the John French Master File (JFMF) and monitor how it is utilized by our Group Leaders and members. – Completed and on-going
- DNA Study – Next Phase Started
- Pennington Pedigrees Indexing (BPIP) – Some work has been completed on this important project by James D. Pennington. See BPIP section for details.
- CD Project – On hold

These projects are listed by their priority. They were assigned these priorities based on discussions with the Board, the Research Committee and what I thought must be completed in order to accomplish our primary goals and objectives.

Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Communications with members and other researchers showed minor improvements but still needs to improve. For the fifth year in a row there was an increase in the number of queries and general e-mail messages. We tried holding on-line meetings with Group Leaders and members on our new website for the JFMF but this has been dropped

due to a lack of interest. It would appear that the technology is a problem and the timing of the "chats" are probably the main obstacles. I hope in the future we can take advantage of this technology as I see it as being a very valuable tool.

- Collection of genealogical information from new members and other researchers has improved. Since July 2003, I have collected five (5) reports and/or gedcom files. All of the reports have been forwarded to the Editor of the Pedigrees to be published, if I received the author's consent to publish. All of the reports and/or gedcom files have been placed on the new website for the JFMF, if I received the author's consent to publish.
- Our main website (www.PenningtonResearch.org) continues to grow and improve. We have received a number of positive comments and suggestions to improve it. We continue to add new features and information to the website. We reached a milestone this year with an average page hits per month of 129,755 (compared to last year's average of 106,962)! Our highest month for this reporting period was January with 187,255 page hits (compared to last year's high of 140,262)!
- We successfully created and opened a new website on www.MyFamily.com for the JFMF. There are all types of Family History reports, gedcom files, miscellaneous files and information on the new website. The website is available to all PRA members which was one of our primary goals. Group Leaders can now work directly on their Group's gedcom (Family Tree) and make changes/additions/deletions on their file without having to go through our petition process. This was another major goal of the new website.
- Hundreds of new and returning Pennington Research Association members were sent "Welcome to the Pennington Research Association" and "New Member Process" messages via e-mail or a letter by U.S. Postal Service. This follow up, combined with the new member material sent by our Membership Chair, Barbara Pennington, has been a tremendous success. I continually hear back from new members and in many cases some of them have become Family Group Leaders. This process has greatly enhanced our ability to reach out to new and returning members and has helped us meet our primary goal of providing value to our members.
- DNA Study – We have started a new Phase and an updated Phase II report has been submitted by Nick Pennington, DNA Chairman. I published an article titled "DNA Study and Family Groups" in the Pennington Pedigrees and on our website. This article highlights how

important our DNA Study is to helping genealogical research and how important traditional genealogical research is to help move us forward with the study of our Family Groups.

DNA Committee Report

Progress Report for the DNA Study (June 2003-June 2004)

I am happy to report that we have experienced a very significant growth in the volunteer rate for the DNA Study. We had 18 Penningtons enter the study in this period. Some of these individuals were needed second and third volunteers for Groups 4 and 7. This has the effect of validating the sequences that we had identified as the signatures for these Groups.

Another group of volunteers represented their PRA Groups for the first time in our study, an especially exciting event. For the first time we now have sequences for PRA Groups 12, 17, 20 and 26. Groups 12 and 20 match with the largest group of related Pennington families and if Group 20 is successful in proving that they are indeed Group 1 this development may yield a significant breakthrough in Pennington genealogy. The individuals from Groups 17 and 26 had DNA signatures that were distinct and this suggests that these Groups are separate lineages within the PRA.

In total we have 55 men with the Pennington surname in our study and 80% of them fall into 5 families as defined by DNA matches. I am confident that a few more PRA Groups will be identified as individual DNA lineages when groups represented by a single person obtain matches in the near future. I would like to point out here that there are about 1200 surname DNA studies now and the overwhelming majority of them find that there are several, and for some common surnames, even multiple genetic families that adopted a given surname. It is unrealistic to think that all Penningtons in the world are related by blood ties.

70% of all men, descended from Europeans, fall into a Y chromosome lineage called R1b and 50/55 Penningtons appear to be R1b. The R1bs entered Europe about 40-50,000 years ago. Interestingly we have found three "I" lineage Penningtons, the ancestors of these men entered Europe about 23,000 years ago (before the last ice age).

During this reporting period the PRA has partially subsidized 4 tests (from unassigned donations to the study) for a total cost of \$ 389. We have set a ceiling that pays only for the 12 marker test for anyone we help out with the cost. At the time we wanted more data for certain Groups, so we paid for 12 markers for one Group 4 and also for one Group 20 individual, both of these Penningtons kicked in the remaining \$72 to bring each up to the 25 markers needed for sufficient resolution. We also paid for an upgrade

for one Group 16 person from 12 to 25 markers and we paid for 12 markers for one individual from the UK. The last sequence from the UK did not match anyone in our study so far.

A major re-interpretation of the position of Group 28 occurred this year. This came about due to a greater understanding of how mutations can occur with differing frequencies on the different markers. We were being too strict in excluding Group 28 from the largest Group. Group 28 is most likely related to the large group but this family may share a common ancestor in the male line prior to the move to the USA ~1620.

I anticipate that the next year will bring the most exciting progress that we have seen since the study was initiated in April of 2001. Much of this progress will come from new leads in the indispensable tracking of paper trails and its correlation with our DNA results. It is now very possible that we will identify the DNA sequence of Ephraim Pennington of the New Haven colony, (born c1620). If that happens, we will be able to tell, using our DNA test, if an individual is a descendent of Ephraim of CT. I would like to emphasize the long term nature of our study. As we gain participants, needed pieces of the puzzle will be added and a subtly different, more complete, picture of the Pennington family will emerge.

Nicholas J. Penington Ph.D.
DNA study coordinator
PRA Group 33 leader.

Websites

We opened our new website designed for the JFMF to our members in early 2004. The new website was approved by the Board of Directors and was created and tested in 2003. Since its' opening, it has been a success.

The new website is located on www.MyFamily.com and is used by PRA members. Only Family Group Leaders are able to change/delete certain information on the new website.

I post new family history reports, family trees (gedcom files), news and other genealogical material on the website for our members to use in their research.

While I can say that both our websites have been very successful and they have helped us to meet a couple of our major goals, I am concerned about the future of the JFMF website on MyFamily.com. Participation by our Group Leaders and members has dropped off significantly and we are working to try and identify the reasons.

There is a strong possibility that if this trend continues I will recommend to the Board that we no longer support the website for our JFMF on

MyFamily.com. The amount of time, effort and expense it takes to operate this website may not be worth it when we have such a low participation rate.

A brief examination of our members shows that while we have about 153 members on the MyFamily.com website, about 80 have visited since May, 2004. In fact, it would appear that most of the members have not visited the website since March, 2004.

I have no explanation as to why most of our Group Leaders do not seem to be adding/changing anything to the Family Trees and/or files. There are some Group Leaders (notably Carmen, Rene'e, Jim and Mandy) who are contributing to the website but the majority of our Group Leaders do not appear to have worked on their family trees and/or added anything to the file cabinet section.

I find this trend most troubling, especially since the 2 main purposes for creating the new website was to give our members direct access to the JFMF and to allow the Group Leaders to work directly on their family trees and to easily add reports, communicate with their Group members, etc.

I am really starting to wonder if the new website on MyFamily.com is worth the time, effort and expense (even though it is a very small expense).

We continue to be very successful with our query and replies submitted to our website. We save all queries submitted to us via the forms on our website and post them on our website. Likewise, any replies are posted on our website.

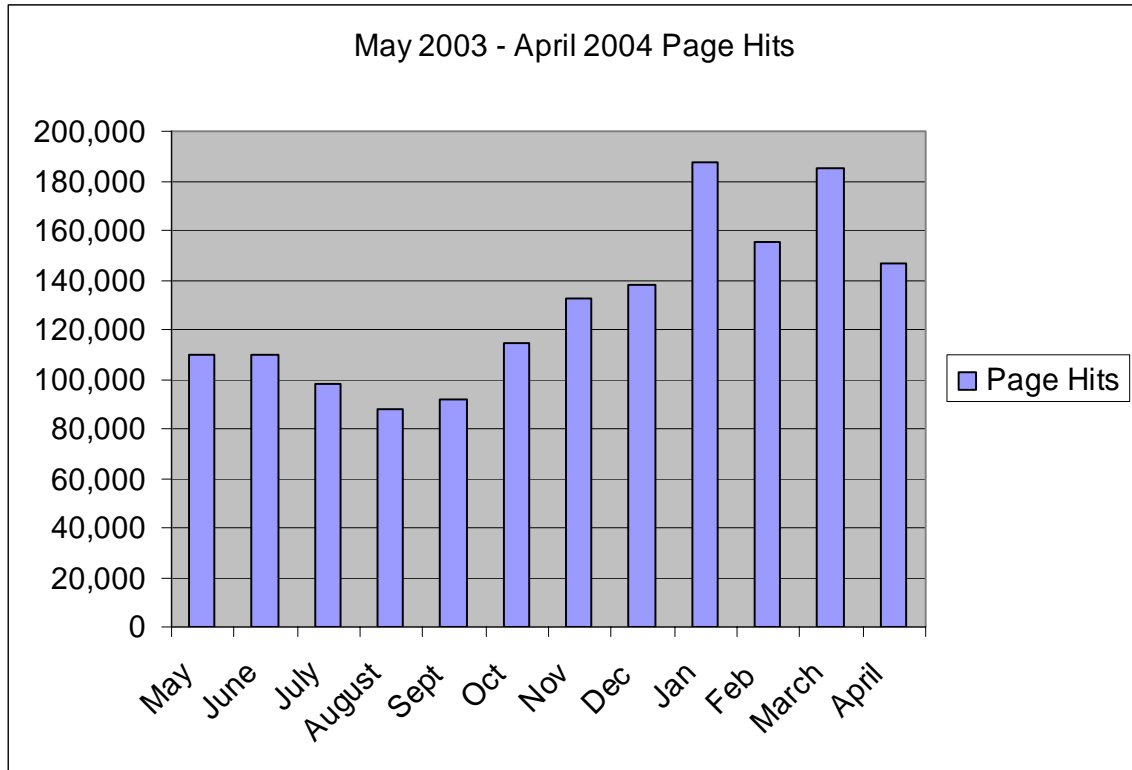
We save each month's queries and replies and made them available to the Editor of the Pedigrees who publishes them in the Pedigrees. I changed our "search" feature to use FreeFind (www.FreeFind.com) and so far it appears that we're averaging about 200 searches a month. This is a free search engine and I like the results.

While we have implemented several ways to use our websites, we must continue to explore new ways to provide on-line access to the information the PRA has such as the Pedigree and Courier and their indexes. Each of these data sources has tremendous value to our members and other researchers.

Remember that the futures of the websites are limited only by our imagination.

Below is a chart summarizing the number of page hits our website has experienced between May 2003 and April 2004.

When reviewing these numbers, remember that these are PER MONTH! The website average is 129,755 page hits per month as compared to an average of 106,962 page hits per month for the same time period last year. This is fantastic!



Mail List

The Pennington Research Association's is still a "quiet" mail list. I have urged the Board, Staff and Research Committee members to make better use of our mail list but the list continues to be under utilized! This is another example of how the PRA provides tools and methods to help our members but they are not used very much. While there is no expense for operating this list, it may be time to consider dropping it from those things the PRA operates. I will continue to monitor the list and report to the Board next year and make any recommendations at that time.

I want to stress, once again, that our Board, Staff and Research Committee members should set the example by using the mail list more for communications and research exchanges.

As of May 24, 2004, there were 146 subscribers to PRA-L (normal mode) and 45 subscribers to PRA-D (digest mode) for a total of 191 subscribers.

The purpose of the PRA mail list is:

1. To provide information for researchers of the Pennington surname;
2. To provide general information such as announcements, research tips and resources and;
3. To provide an easy method for PRA members to communicate with each other;
4. A discussion list for research and;
5. To provide a source for queries and answers to queries for the editor of the Pedigrees should he/she choose to use them.

Message Boards

Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com

In addition to the mailing lists, genealogy message boards continue to play a major role in genealogy research. We have seen continued growth on the Pennington message boards hosted by Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com.

On Ancestry.com, the boards include wills, pensions, queries, obituaries, births, cemeteries, census, deed, immigration, marriage, bible and biography. This board is operated by the PRA. Operation of this board has helped the PRA to meet its mission.

On Genealogy.com's surname message board several messages have been posted by PRA members. This is a busy genealogy surname message board. This board is not operated by the PRA and anybody can post to the message board.

I encourage the Board, Staff, Research Committee and all Pennington researchers to utilize both message boards to help with their research and communication with other Pennington researchers.

BPIP (Bobby Pennington Indexing Project)

This very important project is on hold because we have not located a volunteer yet to manage it. I have been able to recover and then to scan many of the previous issues of the Pedigrees and then to save them in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf) which is a very time consuming process. I have also scanned several issues of the original "Pennington Lending Files" that were the very first publications of the Pennington Research Association.

James D. Pennington volunteered to examine the BPIP and make an evaluation of the project and what it would require to make it operational again.

James reports he believes the BPIP can be started and maintained again, however, the key component is finding a sufficient number of volunteers (at least 2) who have both the skills and tools.

We do have a couple of volunteers who possess the skills and have the tools to work on the BPIP but until we can identify the exact starting point (where Bobby Pennington stopped) and obtain all of his data, we can't proceed.

In addition, we need to refine and publish the procedures that will be needed to manage the BPIP given today's requirements and concerns for privacy and copyrights.

It is my intention to make the BPIP the focus of the Research Committee this year.

JFMF

Last year we developed and implemented major changes on how we work with the John French Master File (JFMF) after they were approved by the Board. The two changes are:

- A new purpose statement: The JFMF is a working database for research purposes -- not a database that we will try to keep as up to date and as accurate as possible.
- The JFMF will be placed on the MyFamily.com website and made available to PRA members only.

We now have our website operating and it continues to by my hope that it will help us to resolve some of the major concerns with the JFMF that have been identified in the past. The most important features are the ability for our Group Leaders to add gedcom files directly to the website and to modify them once posted.

Additional Features are:

- The website will allow a member to search any of the gedcom files
- The website will allow a member to print Family History reports.
- The website has a built in "chat" feature that will allow members to have "chats" at any time with each other on the Internet.
- The website will contain digital images of genealogical material such as deeds, wills, census records, Family History reports and photographs.
- The website has a calendar for us to post important events
- The website has a "News" section where we can post important news

It is very important that our Group Leaders participate in this new website. To ensure their participation, we agreed last year that should a problem develop or if they do not participate in the new website, they will be notified and if they do not modify their behavior, they will be removed as a website

member. We have noticed that many of the Group Leaders are not participating so I anticipate we will soon be sending out notices.

Last year the Board approved new policies concerning:

- Copyrights
- Disclaimer Statement
- Privacy

These new policies allow us to meet our mission, goals and objectives.

JFMF Report

By Carmen Johnson, Assistant Research Director for JFMF

The MyFamily.com site has been a mixed success. I currently have a list of 247 members with 153 members signed up. Some have had very little trouble signing in and looking around - others have had connection problems or password problems. There is a great deal of excitement about having the access to the JFMF, but it is difficult to tell how many have taken advantage of that access. Approximately 1/2 of the membership has logged in within the past 3 weeks. So, I do know that they are checking to see if anything is going on.

I believe that the technology is somewhat intimidating for some people and others probably don't have a fast enough connection speed to be able to wonder around the site efficiently. It is going to take time and experimentation to get the results that we are looking for. Chiefly, we need more involvement by the Group Leaders both with the site and within their Groups. I have considered my Family Group of Group 7 to be one of the more involved groups that I've seen. They have for the most part been quiet the past few months. So, it may be just an involvement with a lot of activities that holds some people back during the spring and summertime. I'm hopeful that the Fall and Winter will bring more activity.

I consider this an ongoing process that will take time and effort to make a true success, but I believe with continued support and encouragement more members will take advantage of the site.

Family Groups

Rene'e Davis, Group Leader for Group 9, is our Assistant Research Director (ARD) responsible for Family Groups. Rene'e continues to work very hard to establish communications with all of the Group Leaders and to stimulate discussions on a wide range of topics concerning Family Groups.

She has been successful with her efforts with many of the Group Leaders and she is to be congratulated on her accomplishments.

We continue to see some "detachment" from the PRA by some of our Group Leaders. There are a few Group Leaders who do not respond to e-mail messages and/or phone calls or contribute any research to the JFMF or share information with other researchers.

I hope that with the continued support of the Board and the active and interested Group Leaders we will see some viable solutions.

With the recent results of the DNA Study, I believe that we can expect to see merges of some of our Family Groups in the future.

Group Leaders Report

By Rene'e Davis, Assistant Research Director for Family Groups

Below is an attempt to give you a picture of the Group Leader activity on our new website as well as activity in the individual Family Groups. The Group Leaders / members indicate that they are active members on the Myfamily website. Of the feedback from our Group Leaders most were very positive about the new website. As with most of us, there is a period of adjustment for the new program.

Group 1 - Barrie is a member of the MyFamily website and has posted responses to the new Group 1 members as well as to Group 20 Leader, Mandy Colgan. Barrie maintains a website for Group 1. Barrie is the Editor of the Pennington Pedigrees. Group 1 had 7 members of which 4 were new. She does an outstanding job keeping everything in the PRA going and balancing work and home activities.

Group 3 - Trisha is not a member of the Myfamily website. Recently had one new member join the Group. Trisha does a great deal of traveling with her job. In Nov. 2003 she renewed her commitment to her Family Group and was making contact with Carmen to sign on the Myfamily website as she has many changes/updates to be done on the file.

Group 4 - Arthur is a new Group Leader and has "jumped in" by working on the MyFamily website and posting messages on our mail list. He has also created a new website for Group 4. Group 4 had 42 members of which 2 were new.

Group 5 - Jeanne is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. She took a trip to England this past year. I have approached her on publishing in Pedigree but have not heard from her.

Group 6 - Paul L. Pennington recently resigned as the Group Leader due to family matters. We are working to find a replacement. Group 6 had 17 members of which 2 were new.

Group 7 – Carmen is the Assistant Research Director (ARD) responsible for the JFMF and the MyFamily.com website so she has been very active on it and is the website's administrator. She is responsible for sending invitations to new members and maintaining the website. She is doing a fine job posting and manages to keep up with the new members of the PRA. She has maintains a website for Group 7 and a separate mail list for Group 7 researchers. Group 7 had 29 members of which 4 are new.

Group 8 - Sue is not a member of the MyFamily website. Rod is a member but has no postings. Sue is not comfortable with computers and has experienced some health issues. Rod maintains a website for Group 8. Group 8 had 24 members of which 1 are new.

Group 9 - Rene'e is the Assistant Research Director (ARD) responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders. Rene'e is a member of the MyFamily website and had posted 2 updates to the Group 9 Group file (known as a family tree) to date. Group 9 had 9 members of which 2 are new. She has concerns about the lack of activity on the mailing list. She believes that our mailing list is a window to the world of Pennington genealogists and the lack of activity will not spur interests. As a trial - she has discontinued her private mailing list of her group members and has returned the communication back to the PRA mailing list.

Group 11 – Shirley is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. She continues to publish "Shirley's Tidbits" in the Pennington Pedigrees. Shirley maintains a website for Group 11. Group 11 had 3 members.

Group 14 - Ralph is a member of the MyFamily website. He recently returned from active duty in the U. S. Military and is working to bring Group 14 members up to date. Group 14 had 14 members.

Group 16 – Mike is a member of the MyFamily website. He has posted one update to the Group 16 file. There has been some activity on the mailing list from him. Group 16 had 6 members.

Group 17 – Rick is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. As far as I can see, there is only one member of Group 17, Rick.

Group 19 - Shaunta is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. Group 19 had 3 members.

Group 20 - Mandy is a member of the MyFamily website and has updated her file and has used the website for several postings. Mandy is a new Group Leader and has done a great job getting the Group active. Mandy has been published in the Pennington Pedigrees (Volume 36, No. 1). Her article

updating the Group file was not only informative but done in a way that a novice genealogist can understand. Group 20 had 11 members.

Group 21 - Ruth is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. Ruth is writing a book about her son which is taking much of her time and energy. It may be quite a while before she becomes active again. Ruth maintains a website for Group 21. Group 21 had 7 members.

Group 23 - Viola is not a member of the MyFamily website. I believe computers are a challenge for Viola. I continue to assist her but the replies from her are very slow. Group 23 had 4 members with 1 possible new member.

Group 26 - Ric is not a member of the MyFamily website but Lois (his partner) has been active on the PRA mailing list. Group 26 had 12 members with 1 new member.

Group 28 - Paul is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. He did publish in Volume 36, Number 1 of the Pennington Pedigrees. Paul's column not only highlighted a Memorial Gravestone for the progenitors of Group 28 but he also took the time to highlight some of the outstanding people that helped with the project. Paul maintains a website for Group 28. Group 28 had 17 members.

Group 29 – Joanne is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. I have forwarded some inquiries from both members and non-members of the PRA to her and she has responded. Group 29 had 7 members.

Group 30 - Martha is not a member of the Myfamily website. Group 30 had 7 members.

Group 31 – Jim is a member of the MyFamily website and has been very active posting to it and our mail list. Jim maintains a website for Group 31. Group 31 had 2 members. Jim published a wonderful Biography in Pennington Pedigrees Volume 36, No. 1. He has a very good understanding the working of the new website and is quite an asset for Group 31, a member of the Board and our newly elected Vice President.

Group 32 – Bill is a member of the MyFamily website but has no postings. Group 32 had 2 members.

Group 33 – Nick is a member of the MyFamily website but has not posted any updates on it. Nick is the Chairman of our DNA Study Group and has been very active and successful in this effort. He has posted several messages on our mail list about the DNA study. Group 33 had 2 members.

Group 34 – Lana Pennington resigned due to health issues as the Group Leader and we have not found a replacement. To date she was the only member of this Family Group.

I believe that the PRA is just maintaining on the subject of Group Leaders. As you can see above, it is rather difficult when there are so few members in a specific Family Group to have much activity. It is also possible that they, the Group Leaders are just busy with 'everything in life and our hobby'. To my knowledge, we have experienced one complaint about one Group Leader and that has been ratified. As a whole, it is my opinion, our volunteer Group Leaders are maintaining a good relationship with their members. Although, I would like to have more feedback from the Group Leaders. Their opinion and suggestions are very important to this organization.

Group Leaders - Nick of Group 33, Jim of Group 31 and Jeanne of Group 5 have registered for the 2004 Reunion. Rene'e of Group 9 is still hoping to attend.

PRA Obituary Database Information

By Margaret E. Wood, PRA Obituary Database Editor

As of June 1, 2004, there are 643 obituaries in the PRA Obituary Database. I have added 48 since July 3, 2003, 23 of those since Jan. 5, 2004.

I post all obituaries in my computer database and on the Rootsweb List. Sometimes obits from more than two years back are sent to me. Of course, I keep them on my list and Rootsweb, but I send only current or those going back about two years to Barrie for inclusion in the Pedigrees. She does not include the complete obituary there, except for prominent PRA members generally.

Someone suggested that the obituaries of family members of PRA groups be included in the JFMF. In checking my database, I find only 81 show a PRA group number. Many more of them may be of one of the groups since I originally went through all of the issues of the Pedigrees and Curriers and included them in the database. Those amounted to about half of the obits in the database and rarely showed a group number.

I receive about 15 to 20 inquiries a year from the Rootsweb List. Most ask for further info on the person, which I do not have in most cases. I usually refer them on to you.

Each year I bring or send copies of my complete list of obituaries to the Reunion. I see that Dr. Laubach gets a copy for his memorial ceremony and leave some on the table for anyone who wants one.

The database is available now on Rootsweb among the queries. It could be

made available for sale, I suppose, on a disc or CD, but since it is always on-going, it would need some kind of updating each year or so. (Note by Gene Pennington: Margaret and I will be discussing this option at our Reunion/Meeting this year. I'll keep the Board informed of the progress of those discussions.)

Margaret E. Wood
PRA Obituary Database Editor

Future

Despite major efforts by the Pennington Research Association Board and many dedicated volunteers, one significant issue challenges the Research Committee this next year – the apathy by some of our Group Leaders. I believed that with the implementation of the new website on MyFamily.com, we would see resolution of this problem but it continues.

Neither of our Assistant Research Directors nor myself have any specific recommendations at this time. We will continue to encourage the Group Leaders to participate and to help find ways to resolve any concerns they identify. However, it is important that the Group Leaders work themselves to be an integral part of the Pennington Research Association. It is only with their help that we can meet our mission, goals and objectives.

I continue to believe the future of the Pennington Research Association is very bright. We have identified some of the challenges and we have worked very hard to overcome them.

We must continue to explore new ways of making our information available in printed and electronic media and on the Internet.

The purpose of an association such as the Pennington Research Association is to foster the exchange of genealogical information and to embrace others in our extended family.

I encourage the Board members to renew their commitment to our vision, our mission and our goals.