Our presenter this month was Elissa Scalise Powell, nationally recognized as a genealogy lecturer. The subject of her presentation was "To Use On-line Trees or Not: Organizing Your Data for Your Purposes". Elissa was kind enough to allow us to add a link to her meeting notes with this email, so our notes will be shorter than usual.
http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/2204/Elissa-Powell-Online-Trees

Some general observations as you read Elissa's handout:
 - Online trees are superior if you're collaborating, or want to collaborate, with other people researching the same ancestors
 - If privacy is a concern to you, software running on your PC is superior. You can set your online tree to private, or limit the people that can view it, but that may reduce interaction with new people. If you want to maintain complete privacy from DNA searches you have to take an additional step and click the box in privacy settings to turn that off
 - If you want to do reporting from your tree, especially if you want to print a family history, the PC products are the software of choice
 - You can, and many people do, maintain both online trees and PC software trees
 - If you use Ancestry for your tree it's yours to maintain. If you use FamilySearch Family Tree, your tree is shared for anyone to update. If a tree is updated the person who did it is identified, and they are encouraged to explain their reason. You may be able to quickly grow your tree by connecting your ancestor(s) to an existing tree.

A few announcements:

The North Hill Genealogists are having their annual spring conference March 22 and 23rd. Their speaker is Blaine Bettinger and his topics cover all aspects of DNA testing and the use of DNA in genealogy. You can read more about the event and register by following this link: https://northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=77

The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh returns this year for two

weeks of classes at LaRoche college by leaders in their respective fields. Information on the classes and how to register are here: https://www.gripitt.org

RootsTech comes to Salt Lake City starting February 27th and they have daily lectures that they stream over the internet for free. Information on the lectures and registration is here: https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake/live-stream-schedule

The Heinz History Center is once again hosting their Irish Genealogy Workshop on March 18th. If you have Irish ancestors you're trying to find, this one is a must. Details and registration information is here: https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/irish-genealogy-workshop-2019