



August 3, 2020

Forsyth County Genealogical Society members, guests, and interested parties:

Dear Friends,

First, let me say that I sincerely hope that you and your families are ALL staying healthy during these challenging times.

As you are aware, due to the coronavirus pandemic which resulted in the governor suspending any gatherings of people, coupled with the subsequent closing of the public libraries, our meetings were canceled from April 7, 2020 through August 4, 2020. Unfortunately, the situation has not improved, and there is no indication that this will change in the near future. The Reynolda Branch of the Forsyth County Public Library will, or has begun, to open to the public on a limited capacity limited hours basis, but is still not opening to group activities. Even if they were to open to meetings, I would not feel it appropriate to subject any of our attendees to group gatherings until it is PROVEN that such gatherings are safe. Therefore, I have made the decision to cancel the FCGS meetings for the remainder of this calendar year, which will affect our meetings through December 1, 2020. Therefore, the next opportunity when we can potentially hold a meeting will be on January 5, 2021. Sadly, there is no guarantee that we will be able resume our meetings in January, but this gives additional time for us to watch the progression, or hopefully regression, of this virus. Should we be unable to gather together in January, the possibility of an online video meeting is being explored. Further information regarding this will be forthcoming if we find that we will be unable to meet in person by January.

As you know, due to the interruption in both our monthly programs and Journal publications, we extended paid memberships to cover the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Therefore, if your dues are paid current for this year, you are automatically covered through August 31, 2021. The meeting for the month of September would normally be the annual business meeting when the board of directors for the upcoming year is voted on by the members in attendance. As we have done with our memberships, and since all board members have graciously agreed to remain in their current board position, we are carrying over our current board through the 2020-2021 fiscal year, as well.

We printed one edition of the *Journal of the Forsyth County Genealogical Society*, Volume 38, which was mailed in January. We have been unable to print, compile and mail any additional editions, and put on hold any future printings through the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends August 31, 2020. Our editor, Darla Johnson, has continued to work on compiling articles for the next issue, and is hopeful that she will have the capability to print, compile, and mail a new issue in September. Darla hopes that you will use this home-bound time to work up stories about interesting people or events, or about research you have done, or are currently doing, that she can print in the Journal. Please send articles, questions or suggestions for the Journal to the e-mail address linked to our website: forsythgensoc@gmail.com.

It is my sincere hope that by January 2021 the Forsyth County Genealogical Society will be able to return to a normal schedule. Keep in mind that any decisions I make regarding these meetings is with your, and your fellow attendees, wellbeing in mind. As president of our society, it is my responsibility to choose the path that I feel is the safest for all concerned. These decisions are in no way easy ones, and I appreciate your understanding.

Please regularly check our website (Forsythgen.org) as well as our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/136697763030901/), to stay updated about FCGS news, schedules, and events.

Thank you for your continued support of the Forsyth County Genealogical Society! I hope that you all stay safe and healthy, and I sincerely hope to see you in January.

Terri Thrailkill
President, Forsyth County Genealogical Society