

History: RUG Significant Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Oct 1988	Initial set of by-laws proposed.
Nov 1988	Membership dues set at \$10 per year.
Dec 1988	First Newsletter mailed; first class postage (25 cents).
Jan 1989	Initial meetings of the RUG were held at the Kenmore Middle School, Carlin Springs Road, Arlington.
Mar 1989	First membership survey initiated.
Aug 1989	Howard Nurse suggests Roots III users seriously consider "a '286 with VGA and a 40 MB hard disk."
Jan 1990	Treasurer's report published: "The Roots Users Group began 1989 with \$712.31 in its account. During 1989 we took in \$1,850 in membership dues, expenses during 1989 were \$1299.22 leaving a balance as of December 31, 1989, of \$1,263.09."
Feb 1990	Howard Nurse visits and speaks to RUG.
Mar 1990	A demonstration of the new Rplot software from CommSoft was demonstrated. Since many at the meeting had not yet bought Microsoft "Windows" software, it was necessary to demonstrate "Windows" first.
May 1990	Version 1 of the ROOTS III shareware utility P NAMES released.
Jun 1990	Sesame released.
Jun 1990	Mailing of newsletter changed to use bulk postage (16.7 cents).
Jul 1990	Distribution of newsletter to members present at the meetings initiated; remaining copies to be mailed.
Jul 1990	First membership list distributed to members. Only three members failed to give approval to publish their names.
Aug 1990	President reports that per-member income of \$.83 was insufficient to prevent significant decline in treasury; hope was that bulk mailing would defer this somewhat.
Aug 1990	Membership reaches 250.
Nov 1990	Membership approves increase of dues to \$15 per year.
Jan 1991	Meetings shifted to Fairfax High School.
Feb 1991	Membership reaches 349.
Feb 1991	First RUG newsletter survey begun.
Feb 1991	First RUG newsletter index published.
Feb 1992	First published membership roster included in Newsletter.
Apr 1992	Version 3 of ROOTS III shareware utility program DFOOT released; presents sorted place name list.
May 1992	Mailing of newsletter changed to use First Class postage (29 cents) due to irregular delivery. Distribution to members at meetings continues.
Oct 1992	Question relative to Roots III: "Why are children sometimes included with their mother and not their father in the family mode?" Answer: "The father's father must be in the database for his children to be included..."
Oct 1992	Shareware program PST for ROOTS III or GEDCOM released; unique graphical presentation of ancestry tree.
Mar 1993	Mailing returns to use of bulk mail.

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Mar 1993	First mention of computer viruses in newsletter.
Mar 1993	Roots IV released.
Apr 1993	CommSoft recommends a minimum machine for Roots IV as a 386SX with 4MB RAM and 10 MB disk space.
May 1993	Jim Pflueger, first Secretary of RUG, dies.
Nov 1993	Rug starts use of a P.O. box. Bylaws amended to separate out Membership Chairman from Treasurer responsibility.
May 1994	Newsletter reverts to first class mailing.
Jun 1994	Membership survey data published, currently 590 members; 563 responded. 90% reported having hard drives with less than 99 MB.
Jul 1994	Roots IV function key template made available to members.
Dec 1994	Gil Corwin, one of the nucleus of individuals who formed RUG and long-time treasurer, dies.
Mar 1995	RUG starts using postal meter in lieu of stamps.
May 1995	Visual Roots announced.
Aug 1995	Visual Roots released
Mar 1996	RUG web site established with name http://www.genealogy.org/~rug/
Apr 1996	RUG's first website established at Genealogy.org/rug ; Dick Cleaveland webmaster.
Dec 1996	Roots V released.
May 1997	CommSoft recommends a minimum of 32 MB RAM with a processor of 166 MHz.
May 1997	ROOTS product line purchased by Palladium. Palladium is later purchased by Broderbund, which, in turn, is purchased by The Learning Company, which is purchased by Mattel, which later spins the genealogy division off as a separate company, called Genealogy.com .
May 1997	UFT released.
Sep 1997	John Weigard, the first President of RUG, dies.
Apr 1998	Ed Napier, one of the founding members and past vice president, dies.
Jul 1998	RUG web site moved to http://www.rootsusers.org
Oct 1999	Special meeting at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Conference Center.
Nov 1999	Regular meetings shifted to the headquarters of the Washington Gas Company auditorium.
Feb 2000	RUG moves its website to its own domain, rootsusers.org .
Jun 2000	Development of UFT discontinued by Genealogy.com .
Aug 2000	First meeting presentation about TMG: "Getting started..." by Ken Macomber.
Aug 2000	RUG opts to emphasize TMG in its newsletter and meeting programs.
Nov 2000	TMG 4.0C released; bug relative to source renumbering discovered.
Jan 2001	Clyde Roby takes over as RUG webmaster.
Feb 2001	TMG 4.0D announced: mostly bug fixes.

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Apr 2001	Incentive for developing a newsletter article first announced - one month membership extension for an article at least one column long.
Jun 2001	Bob Velke presents, "How to use the Master Genealogist" under RUG sponsorship at the George Mason University; advanced registration for RUG members \$20. The presentation is videotaped by RUG member volunteers.
Jul 2001	Analysis of journal reports for TMG and UFT (Paul Lawrence) is published in RUG newsletter.
Aug 2001	Copies of the videotapes of the June 2001 presentation go on sale; three tapes for RUG members for \$20.
Oct 2001	In an article in the newsletter it is suggested that going to a credit card payment process might result in an increase in dues "a couple of years in the future."
Nov 2001	Version 1.1 of Family Tree Super Tools is announced.
Nov 2001	Family Tree Super Tools (FTST) released.
Nov 2001	The RUG by-laws are changed to make the Membership Director an officer of RUG rather than an appointed committee chairman.
Dec 2001	450 copies of the three-tape set of videotapes of the June 2001 Velke presentation are sold out.
Dec 2001	The first of three articles about FTST, written by Clyde Roby, appears in the RUG newsletter.
Feb 2002	A review of the results of the member survey shows that more members now use TMG as their secondary genealogy program than UFT. 79% still use Roots III as their primary program.
May 2002	Bob Velke describes TMG Version 5 at the regular meeting of the RUG.
Jun 2002	Membership peaks at 716.
Jun 2002	Version 5 of TMG released.
Jun 2002	Second Site for TMG released, descriptive article appears in newsletter.
Aug 2002	A two-session computer lab on TMG 5 sponsored by RUG, is held by Bob Velke at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA; early registration cost for the full day is \$40 for RUG members.
Aug 2002	Version 5.03 of TMG released.
Sep 2002	Incentive for developing a major newsletter article established at a six month membership extension.
Nov 2002	Version 5.04 of TMG released.
Nov 2002	RUG switches to having the printer do bulk mailing of the U.S. copies of the newsletter.
Mar 2003	Version 5.05 of TMG released.
Mar 2003	Regular meetings shifted to Fairfax High School due to increased security restrictions at Washington Gas.
Jul 2003	Version 5.07 of TMG released.
Jul 2003	RUG posts the free UFT program update files on it's web site.
Aug 2003	Version 5.09 of TMG released.
Nov 2003	Version 5.10 of TMG released.

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Dec 2003	TMG Utility version 5 (for use with TMG 5) is featured in the newsletter.
Dec 2003	TMG version 5.11 released; this is the first release of version 5 on CD. A printed version of the manual becomes available.
Jan 2004	Regular meetings shifted to the headquarters conference room of the Interstate Van Lines, Springfield, VA.
Apr 2004	The program GenSmarts was described in a feature article in the newsletter.
Apr 2004	Version 5.12 of TMG released.
May 2004	Version 5.13 of TMG released.
Jun 2004	Version 5.14 of TMG released.
Jul 2004	Version 5.15 of TMG released.
Aug 2004	Special presentation, sponsored by RUG, is given by Bob Velke at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. Attendance cost for early registration is \$35 for members.
Sep 2004	Incentives for preparing newsletter articles modified; those for making presentations at a RUG meeting established.
Dec 2004	Bob Velke gives a pre-announcement description of TMG Version 6 at the regular meeting of the RUG, held for this occasion at the NRECA facility..
Dec 2004	Version 6.0 of TMG released.
Apr 2005	A new feature allowing members to renew their memberships through the RUG website is announced. This is later extended to allow original sign-up and payment for new members.
Jun 2005	Version 6.01 of TMG released.
Jun 2005	Catherine Wilson resigns as Vice President, T. Greene Reed is appointed Acting VP.
Oct 2005	Version 6.05 of TMG released.
May 2007	First Executive Committee meeting using internet voice (Skype)
Oct 2007	First presentation at general meeting using remote computer control and internet voice (LogMeIn and Skype)
Dec 2007	Version 7.0 of TMG released,
Dec 2008	Program chairperson Michael Dougherty died.
Dec 2008	Meeting venu changed to Trinity United Methodist Church