



ROOTS USERS GROUP

of Arlington, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE from the RUG

By John Frank, Past President

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Happy New Year! The December meeting was full of exceptional circumstances. We knew our members wanted to hear about the History Research Environment (HRE) Project, so we tried to do everything possible to make a presentation available. We were especially motivated since our presenter and HRE board member John Lucas had traveled from Delaware and booked a hotel room for Friday night because of the snowy forecast. Although RUG's stated policy is that when Fairfax County cancels school activities on Saturday (which Fairfax County did), the RUG Saturday meeting will be canceled, we proceeded with the meeting.

RUG members were unaware that the company that owns the join.me app lowered the number of connections in a session to 50 attendees. RUG was never notified of the change. We apologize for asking people to sign off to try and restart join.me. We realize that some viewers could not sign on again because of the 50-person limitation. We are examining the join.me limitation issue to insure this problem doesn't recur.

After a short delay because of connectivity problems, John Lucas provided our audience with a short HRE project history and long-term project objectives.

In the second session, Robin Lamacraft, who was in Adelaide, Australia early in the morning Australian time, conducted question and

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answers along with Don Ferguson in Melbourne, Australia. We wish to thank John Lucas, Robin Lamacraft, Don Ferguson and the entire HRE team for allowing us to hear their story, and we hope to hear about their progress. The HRE team seeks volunteers with software skills in Java, Eclipse, and H2. The HRE website has the details (<https://historyresearchenvironment.org/>). To paraphrase a famous quote, their motto might well be **"Make no small plans, for only big plans stir men to action."**

Normally the RUG presentations are in the Member-only section, but because of our unexpected problems with join.me limitations, the presentation and the Questions and Answers session are on the home page of the Roots User Group website accessible without passwords.