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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Windham County Genealogy Interest Group meets Dec.

2 13

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The meeting of the Windham County Genealogy Interest

6 Group will focus on "Using an AI Assistant for Genealogy & Do

7 You Know About Elephind? The Free Newspaper Search Portal,"

8 Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., via Zoom and

9 in person at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. In case of

10 inclement weather, it will be Zoom only.

11   "NotebookLM can be a powerful tool for genealogy

12 research by acting as a personalized AI assistant that organizes,

13 analyzes, and synthesizes information from specific family history

14 sources," wrote organizers in a news release, saying researchers

15 can upload all materials (Google Docs, PDFs of records,

16 transcripts, research logs, historical newspaper clippings, web

17 links to historical context, etc.) into a notebook dedicated to a

18 person or family line.

19   Using this program, one can instantly create summaries

20 of long or complex documents, like probate files, land deeds, or

21 lengthy family histories, saving time and giving a quick overview.

22 The AI can analyze the sources to pull out key themes, facts, and

23 names, and help make connections and relationships between

24 different documents that might not be immediately obvious.

25   "Ask specific questions about the sources, and the AI will

26 answer based only on the documents that it has been provided

27 and will cite the exact source passages."

28   In October, the software company Veridian released the

29 2.0 version of Elephind, a front end portal for searching more

30 than 30 million newspaper pages using collections from

31 universities, libraries, historical societies, cultural institutions, and

32 other repositories of indexed newspapers.

33   The free service does not hold collections of newspapers

34 but provides an index to search all 3,404 newspaper titles held in

35 more than 50 newspaper collections, such as the New York State

36 Historic newspaper collection (616 titles, 7 million pages); the

37 California Digital Newspaper Collection (66 titles, 4.9 million

38 pages); and the *Virginia Chronicle* (916 titles, 5,684,984 pages).

39   The meeting is free. Register at bit.ly/WCGIG2025. A

40 Zoom link will be sent before the meeting.

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