



PITTSBURGH'S OWN...

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org
PO Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

SCHOOL RESEARCH

By: Steph Valentine

I recently got back from a visit with my mother in Brooklyn. I spent a few hours researching my ancestors at Brooklyn Friends School (BFS). The Quaker school was established in 1867 for kindergarten through eighth grade. The classes were called primary, intermediate and kindergarten. High school (academic) was added around the turn of the century. Both my parents attended the school and I was told that my paternal grandfather did, too.

I contacted BFS and was put in touch with the school's alumni coordinator and archivist and made an appointment to see her. Prior to going there, I went through my files and obtained a list of all the descendants of my great-great grandfather. I even went back one more generation as it might be possible that his grandchildren (he had three daughters and one son) might have also attended BFS. Upon my arrival, she showed me the archives. The first archive was a student book covering 1867 to 1874. It listed the students, their ages, their parents and their home address. She then allowed me to review the school catalogs used to advertise the school. Besides having the school curriculum and instructors, it also listed the school trustees and either the patrons (parents) or students. It covered the period from 1867 to 1918. The records were not complete as there was a fire at the school around the turn of the century, resulting in gaps in the files.

I was able to find my grandfather, his cousins and his sisters. I found quite a few more distant

cousins both as students and as trustees. I also found familiar names but was unable to identify their relationship. Some of the catalogs included home addresses of my ancestors. I now need to consolidate all this information and put it on to a single, easy to read piece of paper. I'll also need to get my hands on the Brooklyn City Directories to cross-check the addresses. It was well worth the visit but I'll have to go back to cover the period 1918 through 1946. This should cover my parent's generation.

GIVEN NAMES TRANSLATED INTO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Looking for the name your ancestor may have used in their native country, or when they first arrived in the United States? Try the website www.BehindTheName.com. This site provides the etymology and history of first names for many nationalities. The site is free and you can access the translation page directly at www.behindthename.com/translate.php.

Thanks to Amy Steele, Reference Librarian, Northland Public Library for this tip.

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS

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For information:

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

OPEN POSITIONS: Newsletter Editor & Programs

WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month except December at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Twp. in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 PM and our general meeting commences at 7 o'clock. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a Newsletter ten times a year for a nominal fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join mid-year will receive the back issues of the Newsletter for that year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each with helpful hints for beginners and experienced genealogists.

The NHG Board meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room, also located at the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the NHG.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The leaves are changing, the pumpkins are appearing on the front porches around the neighborhood and Halloween will be here before we know it. Which means that if we blink, we're likely to miss not only Thanksgiving but Christmas as well. Why is it that as children time seemed to crawl along and the days between Halloween and Christmas seemed endless, and then we grow up and the days fly by and we all bemoan the shortness of our days? I can not believe that my term of President of the NHG is already one-quarter gone!

We can all attest to a phenomena that happens as the cold weather sets in; the patrons at local libraries researching their family trees increase ten-fold. There is nothing like yucky weather to make the warm, quiet confines of the library look like heaven.

The NHG has had a very busy month. Our excellent Cemetery Committee has made the final reading of the cemetery adjacent to the Ingomar Methodist Church in Franklin Park under the direction of Jo Henderson and Irene Dining. The more difficult to read stones will be tackled by our resident gravestone gurus, Elissa Powell and Amy Arner. After months and months of exactly detailed readings and proofing, the actual cemetery readings are almost complete. Sylvan Kretz, Secretary of the NHG, is lending his expertise in German by translating the church records from Trinity Lutheran Church in Franklin Park. Having the ability to supplement the information found on the actual gravestones with information gleaned from the church records really adds tremendous genealogical value. A special thanks to all those members who have donated their time, and tirelessly toiled to make Volume III of the Cemetery Series a reality.

Maureen

NEW ON THE 'NET

NHG WEBSITE CHANGES

By: Elissa Powell, CG

The North Hills Genealogists website (www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org) now has the ability to take credit cards for book purchases and memberships. Our *Pioneer Cemeteries* books have been purchased by people in Pittsburgh, Minnesota, and California through the website since the change was made one month ago. The indexes to the two volumes are also available so that researchers can see which names are included. The books are offered to members at a substantial discount. The Pine and Richland townships book is \$39.95 and the Hampton Township book is \$19.95 but when purchased together by a member, both books are \$40. Libraries also receive this discounted rate.

Those who pay their membership dues through the website will receive their monthly newsletter via a PDF file sent to their email address. The electronic version of the newsletter usually is sent days in advance of when the printed copies being available for pick-up at the monthly meetings. Those with printed copies who do not come to the monthly meeting will get their postal mailed to them, as usual.

Another change to the website is a form that allows those interested in the next *Pioneer Cemetery* volume to record their contact data. Point your friends and associates to www.northhillsgenealogists.org/html/marshall_twp.html so that they can be notified of the pre-publication sale for *Pioneer Cemeteries of Franklin Park Borough and Marshall Township*.

ONLINE MAP ARCHIVE:

AN IRISH GENEALOGIST'S POT OF GOLD

By: Raja Mishra, Boston Globe Staff Reporter

August 29, 2006

Contributed by NHG member Paul Shannon

Ireland's past will come to life tomorrow when the Irish government plans to unveil an online map archive with details of every town, street, and farm on the Emerald Isle dating back nearly 200 years -- an unprecedented achievement expected to be a treasure trove for those tracing their Irish ancestry.

For 5 euros a day, roughly \$6.40, computer users can access visual images of more than 30,000 maps of Irish localities dating back to 1824, a database cobbled together from the vast archival holdings of the government and universities in Ireland. Users can search the database by zooming in on maps, or using key terms, to pinpoint where their relatives once lived, eliminating often fruitless searches in Ireland's aging paper archives, which are spread out among several facilities and often consume time that could be spent visiting ancestral hometowns.

And for those not inclined to travel, the database alone offers rich details about 19th century life in Irish neighborhoods: individual plots of land, cemeteries, schools, hospitals, businesses, factories, wells -- even trees and bushes are mapped out.

The first public demonstration of the project will occur at a reception tomorrow evening in downtown Boston at the outset of a four-day genealogy conference. Free demonstrations will occur at the Hynes Veterans Convention Center during the run of the conference, which ends Saturday.

"These maps represent the world's first large-

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scale [historical] mapping of an entire country,” said Malachy McVeigh, senior operations manager at Ireland's Ordnance Survey Ireland, akin to the US Census Bureau, which owns and operates the database.

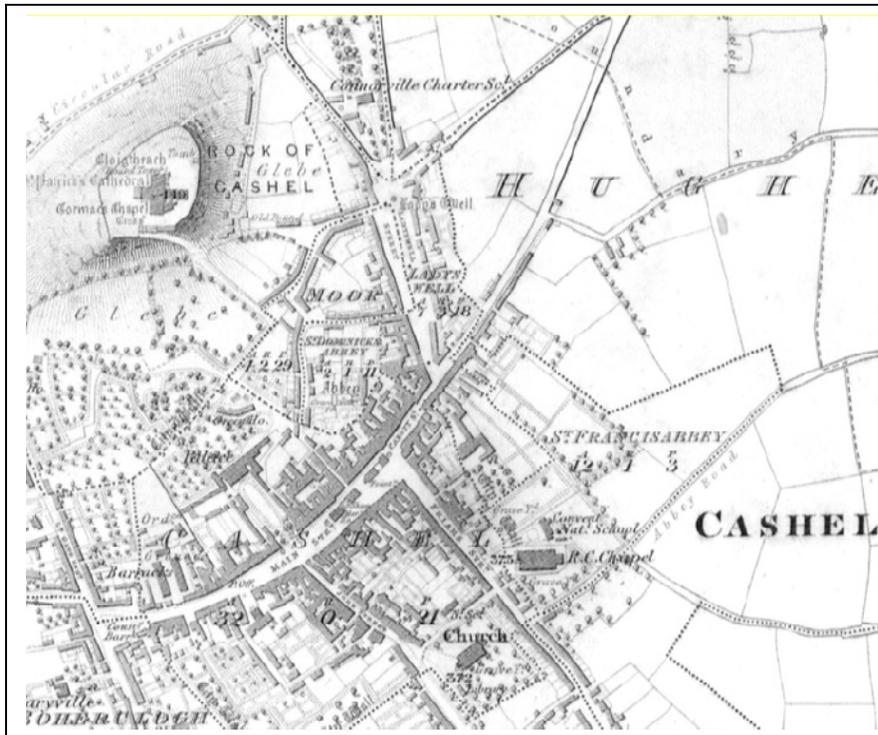
Irish government officials said they expect Massachusetts to be a source of enormous traffic on the Web portal to the maps, www.irishhistoricmaps.ie. About 23 percent of the state's population has Irish roots, the heaviest concentration in the United States.

Michael P. Quinlin of the Boston Irish Tourism Association said lack of preparation often leads to absurd results: “You have Americans showing up in an Irish city and asking if there are any O'Learys living there. Well, that hardly narrows it down.”

Even with the new on line historical maps, tracing roots to Ireland requires a fair amount of sleuthing.

Mary E. Choppa, president of The Irish Ancestral Research Association, based in Boston, said the search often begins with the county in Ireland, which many families know or can easily find out. Then, they must narrow the search using US immigration records, church records, and other data to locate an ancestral town or, better yet, a neighborhood or a street. But often, old addresses and farms, and even streets, no longer exist on current maps.

The online maps, however, can lead people to the locations of their ancestors' dwellings and provide details about the life they might have led.



Ordnance Survey Ireland – Town of Cashel, County Tipperary, Ireland
6 inch mapping series (1:10,560) greyscale 1837-1842

“The maps are so detailed, you can see where their church was, where their house was, what their surroundings were,” said Choppa, who last year used just such a map to trace her family to the town of Carriv in County Armagh. “It's sort of an emotional connection. . . . It's a connection with the past.”

Richard Kirwan, a management consultant to Ordnance Survey Ireland, said the on line map project began in 2003 after government officials noticed two trends.

“The maps were starting to deteriorate,” he said. “At the same time, we saw a huge expansion of people who wanted to trace their Irish ancestry.” The survey team painstakingly scanned the maps, most of them in storage at Trinity College, the National Library of Ireland, and the Royal Irish Academy, all in Dublin. The maps span two eras, from 1824 to 1847, and from 1888 to 1913.

QUERY CORNER

TRACING EARLY PITTSBURGHERS

By: Steph Valentine

QUERY

My ancestor died in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1835 on his way to Havana, Cuba. He was mentioned in his parent's death record as living in Pittsburgh in 1813. Could he have been returned to Pittsburgh for burial? Is there a master list to burials in Pittsburgh? What records could be checked?

DISCUSSION

Was the ancestor's family wealthy enough to return his remains to Pittsburgh? Was he married? Did his family remain in Pittsburgh while he was on his way to Havana? Commercial embalming did not start until the Civil War and transportation during that period was very slow and either by river or by dirt roads. My thought is not.

There is no "master list" of burials for this time period, and the Allegheny County death records, recently transferred to the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library, do not go back that far.

One approach would be to try to identify what church he belonged to, which in turn may have burial records. I'd to go to the Carnegie Library and check their collection of Pittsburgh city directories dating back to 1815. Start with the city directories and try to figure out where he lived. There are old searchable maps at Digital Pittsburgh, which might help to locate the street. Choose the map close to the time of interest. Then search for the churches in that neighborhood. Perhaps the questioner knows or can make an educated guess as to the church that his ancestor belonged. That would narrow the first search even further. Were any of these churches in existence in 1835? Re-check the

city directory. Are they still in existence? If not, where are those records? Contact leads to see if they have any records of interest.

If this approach does not work, then I would work this problem from another angle. Pittsburgh had a population of about 12,500, based on the 1830 census. What churches existed in Pittsburgh in 1835? Pittsburgh city directories would have that information. The contact list is larger but it is a manageable number of churches to contact. For example, the Episcopal Church only had two or three churches by 1835, with the second one having formed in Allegheny City in 1831. Trinity Cathedral still has the old burial ground downtown, of which Helen Harriss has published a burial records book.

Another option would be to check the Pittsburgh newspaper death notice index at the Carnegie Library in Oakland. If he was prominent and still had ties to the area, a death notice may have been published.

FGS -- CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2006

The Federation of Genealogical Societies has awarded a certificate of appreciation to our member and charter president Elissa Scalise Powell, CG which reads:

“The Federation of Genealogical Societies is pleased to present the Volunteer of the Year in the year 2006 to Elissa Scalise Powell nominated by North Hills Genealogists in recognition of outstanding service to the genealogical community.” [signed] “Wendy Elliott, President”

For more information on FGS and their awards please visit their website at www.FGS.org.

DONATION OF REFERENCE BOOKS TO NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

By: Maureen Durstein

Genealogical education is one of the defined missions of the North Hills Genealogists. The NHG annually allocates funds in the operating budget to purchase reference books for Northland Public Library, our generous host for Board and Monthly Meetings.

The following is a list of the books that were purchased and will be presented to Amy Steele, Northland Public Library Reference Librarian, at the monthly meeting on October 17, 2006:

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy, 3rd edition, edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. UT: Ancestry.com, 2006, 992 pp., \$79.95.

Reading Early American Handwriting, by Kip Sperry, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1998, 289 pp., \$29.99.

Courthouse Research for Family Historians, by Christine Rose, CA: CR Publications, 2004, 219 pp., \$21.98.

Creativtree Design Ideas for Family Trees, by Tony Matthews, MD: Clearfield Company, 2001, 55 pp., \$12.95.

In Search of Your Asian Roots Genealogical Research on Chinese Surnames, by Sheau-yueh J. Chao, MD: Clearfield Company, 2000, 323 pp., \$29.95.

Ancestors in German Archives A Guide to Family History Sources, by Raymond S. Wright III, Nathan S. Rives, Mirjam J. Kirkham, and Saskia Schier Bunting, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004, 1189 pp., \$85.00.

Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments, by Lloyd

DeWitt Bockstruck, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005, 608 pp., \$45.00.

INTERVIEW POINTERS

Excerpted from the NHG Beginner's Packet

Memories of older family members can be key component to tracing your family tree. There are a few things to keep in mind when interviewing or writing your relatives whether via regular mail or via email.

First, make your questions specific. You'll have a better chance of getting a helpful answer. If you ask generally about early family recollections, your correspondent may not reply or may say that little can be remembered. Ask about specific people, specific times or places.

I once wrote a great uncle, asking him for any information he might have on his ancestors. He answered, saying he didn't remember anything. I then wrote and asked him if he knew were his father had lived in 1870. His return letter not only solved that mystery, but included colorful stories about great grandfather's days as a cowboy in Texas and Kansas, stories told at bedtime when my great uncle was a boy.

Second, inquire about photographs, diaries, letters and other family papers that may give clues for names and places your family lived. Look for items such as funeral cards, birth announcements and marriage, birth or death certificates.

Third, keep track of what you are told in a carefully dated and documented fashion. Write down who told you and when they told you for each piece of information. If a relative sends you an undated letter, or calls you on the telephone to add information, make sure that you note the date. If you use a tape recorder, begin the tape with the date and location and the name of the person you are interviewing, as well as your own name.

AN ILLUMINATING VOLUME IN THE CEMETERY SERIES

By: Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

The third volume of cemetery information published by the North Hills Genealogists, *Pioneer Cemeteries of Franklin Park Borough and Marshall Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania* is progressing. Co-chairs Irene Dinning and Jo Henderson state that the book is on track for a late spring 2007 printing. This book, along with its predecessors, *Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township* and *Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships*, has much previously unpublished data from church records. Correlated with the tombstone inscriptions and previous readings, these records lend additional information including maiden and middle names, birth and death details, birth places, and include people for whom no tombstone exists.

Final proofing between the typed manuscript and the tombstones is approaching completion. Once finished, the book will be indexed with cross references to maiden names, places of birth, military service units and specific battles, funeral homes and stone carvers' names. Area maps, some photographs, and histories of the cemeteries and municipalities will also be included.

If you know of anyone who would like to be notified of the pre-publication sale of the book, please have them go to www.northhillsgenealogists.org/html/marshall_twp.html and fill in their contact information. This will be the only use of the contact data. You can also order the first two books from the website with a credit card. Indexes for each volume are on the website.

NARA HOURS OF OPERATION REDUCED

By: Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL [via listserv]

The change in NARA hours were announced in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, September 27, 2006. The new hours took effect on October 2, 2006 and effected both Archives 1 in Washington, DC and Archives 2 in College Park, MD. The hours will be 9:00 to 5:00 Monday to Friday. Once a month NARA will have extended hours. The monthly extended hours will be Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m., and Saturday, 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The first extended hours will be held October 19 through 21. Researchers can consult the NARA Web site for the future extended hour schedule. Another cut was the number of times record requests will be retrieved. There were 3 pulls in the am now there will only be 2. The 3:30 pull time will be eliminated on days that NARA closes at 5.

Our petition with more than 10,000 names was received at NARA and the Office of Management and Budget was notified. OMB apparently received a final listing of 530 letters and 2 signed petitions, including ours. Unfortunately the petitions were only counted as 1 comment.

We know that individual letters written to elected officials are the most effective way to voice our sentiments about proposed changes and budget cuts. This years drastic cut in NARA's budget means that more changes and cuts in services are undoubtedly in the offing. Now might be the time to contact your elected representatives. Let them know that more than 10,000 researchers signed a petition (recorded to OMB as a single comment) to protest the cutback in research hours.

We should also all be prepared to write again to our elected officials if additional restrictions in services are announced, as we believe they will be.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

28 October 2006 - Clarksburg, WV

The **WV Chapter of Palatines to America** will hold their **Fall Conference** Saturday, 28 October 2006 from 8:30 am to 3 pm in the second floor auditorium at the Harrison County Board of Education office, 408 E. B. Saunders Way, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

The two featured speakers are Mr. Paul Pettit speaking on "DNA & Genealogy, A Case in History" and Elissa Scalise Powell, Certified Genealogist, speaking on "Rubik's Cube Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Old Data" and "Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women in Records."

Palatines to America is a national genealogy society, headquartered in Columbus, OH. The Society promotes the study of genealogy with emphasis on European migration from the German speaking regions. The WV Chapter was organized to promote interest and study of the emigration of the Palatines and other German speaking peoples to North America.

Advance registration is encouraged. Contact Theresa Blake at 304 745-4647 or by email at secretary_pal_am@yahoo.com

11 November 2006 - Pittsburgh, PA

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will meet at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, at 10 am for a presentation by Diane Ragan, MLS, CG, on "**Using Military Records for Genealogical Research.**" How appropriate that this meeting is on Veterans' Day! For more information see www.WPGS.org.

8 - 12 January 2007 - Salt Lake City, UT

Salt Lake Institute has 10 different weeklong courses you can take. The deadline to register for Course 10, which is based on individual problem solving, is Oct. 31. The other courses

do not have such a deadline and can be registered for online at www.infouga.org. However you do not want to delay since Course 7 "Advanced New England Research" has already sold out.

12 - 14 April 2007 - Columbus, OH

Ohio Genealogical Society annual conference. See www.OGS.org for more details.

26-29 April 2007 - Hartford, CT

New England Regional Genealogical Conference. Elissa Scalise Powell, CG will be presenting "Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women's Records," "Managing a Cemetery Reading Project Efficiently," and "Rubik's Cube Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Old Data." For more information see www.nergc.org.

10-15 June 2007 - Birmingham, AL

Registration for the **Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)** has just opened for the 11 courses to be offered that week. Choose from Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced or Professional courses plus topics such as Land, Southern States, Computers, Virginia, Advanced Military, English Research or Law Libraries and Government Documents. Some classes reach their maximum enrollment by late winter, so don't delay in considering this exceptional opportunity, taught by the top people in the genealogy field. For more information and to register, please see www.samford.edu/schools/ighr.

25-29 June 2007 - Mansfield, OH:

Ohio Genealogical Society Summer Institute is a week-long course held in the OGS Library, with lots of research time built into the schedule. You can come for the day or for the entire week. One day will have ethnic topics. All are methodology lectures that should enhance your research skills. For more information: www.OGS.org.

Christmas Social

Saturday, December 2, 2006

Join us for a day of fun and fellowship at the annual NHG Christmas Social!

10:00 AM -- FIRST THE TOUR -- FORT PITT MUSEUM

Situated in the re-created Monongahela Bastion at Point State Park, the Fort Pitt Museum commemorates the strategic importance of the Forks of the Ohio during the Great War for Empire in which British, French, Colonial, and Native American forces struggled for control of North America. Through exhibits and programs, the museum also addresses the important role of Fort Pitt during the American Revolution and the early development of the city of Pittsburgh and broadens understanding of the significance of the area known as “the Point.”

12:30 PM -- THEN THE FOOD – LUNCH AT THE SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE

Located in the Strip District, 2601 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Cost of the Tour and Lunch is \$18.00

Please return this reservation form with payment before November 22, 2006.

Mail to: North Hills Genealogists, PO Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

NAME: _____

Please indicate your lunch choice:

- Spaghetti & Meatballs** – a heaping portion of pasta topped with homemade tomato sauce and three hand-rolled meatballs.
- Incredible 15-Layer Lasagna** – Lasagna noodles baked with layers of meat sauce, a blend of cheeses, herbs, spices and topped with our famous meat sauce.
- Fettuccini Alfredo**- Fettuccini noodles in Alfredo sauce, Romano cheese and a hint of garlic.
- Four Cheese Manicotti** – Three pasta tubes filled with a blend of cheeses. Topped with tomato and Alfredo sauces.
- Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad** – Fresh and crispy romaine lettuce delicately tossed with our unique Caesar dressing. The creation is completed with croutons, Romano cheese and delectable grilled chicken.



PO Box 304 ♦ Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING – NHG PROGRAMS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**NOVEMBER 2006: “SCALING YOUR BRICK WALL”
Tuesday, November 21, 2006**

Presented by the NHG Board

If you like tip-time November’s meeting is dedicated to YOUR brick wall – bring your problem or just come and learn from discussing another’s brick walls.

**DECEMBER 2006: CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
Saturday, December 2, 2006**

Tour of the Fort Pitt Museum followed by lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse in the Strip District, 2601 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Registration due by Wednesday, November 22nd.

**THIS MONTH -- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006
“USING THE INTERNET IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH”
*Presented by Donna Booth***

The presentation will cover some of the hundreds of websites for genealogy research. It will cover not only the most popular ones but some other ways to use the Internet in your research.

We will look at actual Internet sites as well as discuss the pros and cons of using the Internet for research.