



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

PRESERVING PENNSYLVANIA'S DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

The Pennsylvania State Archives announced that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has awarded \$213,465 in Archives and Records Management grants to twenty-four organizations in FY 2006–2007 under the terms of its History and Museum Grants Program. The grant awards represent the continuing efforts of the State Archives, in conjunction with Pennsylvania's historical records repositories, to help preserve and provide access to Pennsylvania's rich documentary heritage.

Grant awards consist of two types, Documentary Heritage Projects and Local Government Records Projects. Awards up to \$5,000 are non-matching. However, any grant higher than \$5,000, up to and including \$15,000, requires a 50/50 match. The grants are available for such projects as surveying, arrangement and description, assessment, or microfilming of historically valuable records as well as for the purchase of specific equipment and products, such as records management software, microfilm reader/printers and cameras, scanners, acid-free folders and cartons, and records center shelving.

SOME PHMC GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2006–2007 GRANT CYCLE:

Butler County Register of Wills \$5000

Digitize eight tax dockets (4000 pages) from 1866–1920, create microfilm from the images, and to reprint and bind pages from the dockets.

Erie County Clerk of Records \$5,000

Microfilm 175 Marriage License Dockets dating from 1951–1995.

Franklin County Commissioners \$14,825

Microfilm and digitize county records including 150 boxes of criminal court papers from 1880–1930 and 350 books of tax assessments from 1846–1902.

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania \$15,000

Purchase archival supplies in order to arrange, describe, catalog, and re-house the photographic records of the Westinghouse Electric Corp.

University of Pittsburgh \$14,750

Purchase archival boxes and folders to support a project to unfold, flatten, clean, and re-house 758 cubic feet of coroner case files which date from 1887–1973. A database of the files will be created during the project.

A complete listing of the 2006-2007 PHMC Awards is available at: www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/10-12-06%20ACCESS%20ARCHIVES%20PREMIER%20EDITION.pdf

Source: *Access Archives, Newsletter of the Pennsylvania State Archives*, Vol. 1, Oct. 2006, pages 8-12.

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For information:
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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 7:00 PM. 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

Greetings from the Pittsburgh popsicle! The weather has been wreaking havoc with so many plans lately that it seems as if all my free time is devoted to shoveling, spreading salt, and making sure that I can get my 4-wheel drive vehicle up my driveway. Obviously I should have had more foresight before purchasing a house on the highest elevation in Allegheny County!

Although the weather has made it difficult to get outdoors, the plus side is that cleaning out file boxes of documents in front of the fireplace is a really pleasant way to spend an evening. Not that I throw the paper into the fire – I did that once in our old farm house and created a chimney fire. Who knew the many lessons we would learn in our genealogical pursuits!

This month begins the process for identifying members who would like to serve on the NHG Board for the coming term of August 2007-July 2008. Elissa Powell and Steph Valentine form the Nominating Committee. Please consider running for a position and becoming a member of the NHG Board.

Volunteers are also needed for Committee Chairpersons including Program Chair, and Newsletters Editor. If you would like more information about what the Board and Committee Chair positions entail, please contact Elissa or Steph at INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

One last thing I would like to mention: if anyone has articles, case studies, or book reviews that they would like to publish in the NHG Newsletter, please send them via email or drop them in the regular mail. Everyone is invited to participate in the NHG Newsletter publication!

Here's to happy ancestor hunting while we all try to stay warm,

Maureen

NEW ON THE 'NET

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS, STAYED IN VEGAS...UNTIL NOW

Infamous Records Tell All – 50 Years of Hook-Ups and Break-Ups Unleashed in Ancestry.com's Nevada Marriage & Divorce Records Collection; This Valentine's Day – What's Love Got to Do with It? Find Out What Really Went On...

To celebrate Valentine's Day, Ancestry.com is offering free access to the *Nevada Marriage & Divorce Records Collection* for the month of February.

PROVO, UTAH –February 7, 2007 – For more than 9 million people who said their “I do’s” and “I don’ts” in Nevada between 1956 and 2005 – the cat’s out of the bag. Ancestry.com, the world’s largest online family history resource, today announced it is unleashing a unique collection of Nevada’s infamous marriage and divorce records.

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the collection provides an inside look into this iconic location for marriages and divorces in the United States – from high profile hook-ups and break-ups to nuptials of the common folk. A cross-section of the collection reveals some fascinating and fun facts on getting together, splitting up and everything in between – celebrity sightings, most popular days of the week to get married, percent of marriages that take place in Nevada vs. nationwide, how many marriages take place per minute, number of divorces per capita, shortest marriages of Nevada history, repeat offenders and more.

“Only in Nevada could you find a collection that’s as enlightening as it is light-hearted, amusing and, at times, even absurd,” said Megan Smolenyak, Chief Family Historian at Ancestry.com. “Whether you’re interested in celebrity gossip, statistics on marriage, picking a date for a Vegas wedding, this collection has something for everyone whether you’re

researching your family history or simply being nosy.”

- ♦ Search, by name, marriage records of more than 9 million people married in Nevada between 1956 and 2005.
- ♦ Each record includes full names of both the bride and groom and marriage date and place; in addition, many also include state of residence for the bride and groom.
- ♦ Check the collection to see if that steamy office romance turned into wedding vows during a quick weekend trip to Las Vegas – really, it’s OK.
- ♦ Search the records to see if your sister was telling the truth that “nothing happened” between her and the guy she met that one weekend in Vegas last summer.

History of Nevada Marriages & Divorces:

- ♦ Nevada’s reputation as a “marriage Mecca” dates back to Prohibition days, when California’s three-day waiting period on marriage licenses pushed impulsive couples over the Nevada border – where marriage licenses could be obtained immediately.
- ♦ Immediate access to marriage licenses is available today in many states, but Nevada remains the nation’s wedding capital; Not only is there something sentimental about getting hitched in Vegas, but there’s 24/7 access to wedding chapels statewide.
- ♦ Nevada is also the U.S. divorce capital – In 1931, feeling the economic stress of the Great Depression, Nevada changed its divorce residency requirement to only six weeks; During the Depression, Reno earned the nickname “the divorce capital of the world”.
- ♦ The six-week residency requirement is still in effect today – the lowest requirement in the nation – helping to keep divorce rate in Nevada higher than the national average; Not surprisingly, Clark County grants some 62 percent of Nevada divorces.

Source: Press Release, received by Editor, NHG Newsletter from Suzanne Russo Adams, Ancestry Prodesk via email on 02-07-2007.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTION AT ANCESTRY.COM

For Black History Month, we are launching the African-American Historical Records Collection. The collection spans the 19th and early 20th centuries and includes more than 55 million black family history records. For the month of February, three days free access to the entire collection is available at www.ancestry.com/aahistory.

The collection includes:

- ♦ U.S. Federal Census Collection (1790–1930)
- ♦ U.S. Colored Troops service records (to be added in sections over the next few months)
- ♦ Freedman's Bank records
- ♦ Freedmen's Bureau records
- ♦ African-American Historic Photos
- ♦ Slave Narratives from 3,500 former slaves
- ♦ World War I draft registration cards (nearly 2 million African-American men filled out draft cards in 1917– 1918)
- ♦ (coming soon) Southern Claims Commission records and Freedmen's Bureau Marriage records

Roughly 53 million African-American records are included in the Census Collection. Also, now the 1850 - 1930 censuses will be searchable with a new filter that identifies African-American entries, regardless of their description in the census such as "colored," "Negro," "black," "mulatto" or other variations.

Source: Announcements, Ancestry Prodesk Newsletter Week of Feb. 12, 2007, received via email by Editor, NHG Newsletter on 02-14-07.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Saturday, 10 March - WPGS will host "**Paper Conservation and Book Repair.**" Jean Ann Croft, the head of the University Library System's (ULS) preservation department at the University of Pittsburgh, will be the speaker. The program will be held at 10:00 AM in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland.

Tuesday, 13 March - Ohio Genealogical Society, Fulton County Chapter program will be "**What's a Prothonotary?: Your Guide to Pennsylvania Court Houses**" presented by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG. The program will be held at 7:00 PM in the Trinity Lutheran Church, 410 Taylor St., Delta, Ohio. For more information, see www.rootsweb.com/~ohfulton.

12-14 April - Ohio Genealogical Society Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The conference program is now available at <http://www.ogs.org/2007conf.php>.

Saturday, 21 April - WPGS Spring Seminar will be held from 9:00 AM – to 4:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, Greentree. Registration at 8:30 AM. Cost is \$45 per person (\$40 per person for WPGS and WQED members) A hot buffet lunch is included.

The guest speaker for the seminar will be **Michael John Neill**, a regular columnist for the Ancestry Daily News and a math instructor at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. He was the Part I studies coordinator at the former Genealogical Institute of Mid America and conducts a weeklong series of genealogy computer workshops every year for Carl Sandburg College. He is currently on the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Board of Directors. He has lectured at the NGS Conference in the States in 2000 and 2002, the Midwestern Roots 2003 Conference, the FGS Conference 2005, and is a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. Visit his website at www.rootdig.com.

**PROQUEST ADDS TWO IMPORTANT
BLACK NEWSPAPERS TO PROQUEST
HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS™ AND
BLACK STUDIES CENTER™**

BCG Webiste: Press Release Feb. 8, 2007

New York Amsterdam News and Pittsburgh Courier Provide Unique Cultural Perspective of Events that Shaped the 20th Century

SEATTLE, Jan. 19 (PRNewswire-USNewswire)

This summer, ProQuest Information and Learning is introducing the *New York Amsterdam News* and *Pittsburgh Courier* to its growing collection of ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Historical Newspapers users can research events that shaped the United States, including the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement, through the voice of two widely circulated Black newspapers. These titles may also be accessed through ProQuest Black Studies Center, allowing cross-searching with other content sets focused on the African-American experience.

"These titles are invaluable for any scholar studying American history and African-American culture, history, politics and art," said Rod Gauvin, senior vice president of ProQuest Information and Learning. "These additions will open up new areas of research and offer vital comparison of news stories from New York Amsterdam News and Pittsburgh Courier with the other national newspapers and publications."

Both the New York Amsterdam News and Pittsburgh Courier served as influential voices of the black community throughout the 20th century. New York Amsterdam News (1922-1993), a leading Black newspaper of the 20th century, was a strong advocate for the desegregation of the U.S. military during World

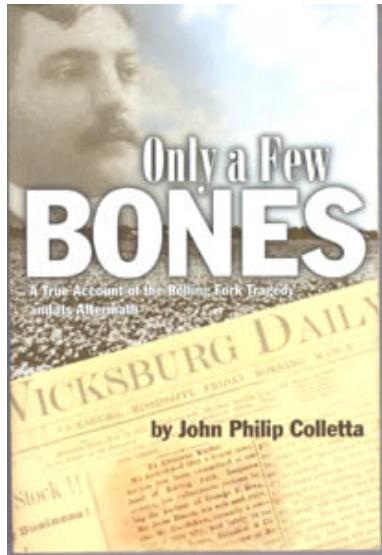
War II, and also covered the historic Harlem Renaissance. The Pittsburgh Courier (1911-2002), one of the most nationally circulated Black newspapers, reached its peak in the 1930s. A conservative voice in the African-American community, the Courier challenged the misrepresentation of African-Americans in the national media and advocated social reforms to advance the cause of civil rights.

The New York Amsterdam News and Pittsburgh Courier are available through ProQuest Historical Newspapers. The ProQuest Historical Newspapers program encompasses newspapers with deep historical value for researchers in various fields. The New York Amsterdam News and Pittsburgh Courier will join other prestigious U.S. newspapers already in the ProQuest program: The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Constitution, The Boston Globe, The Hartford Courant, The New York Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, and The Christian Science Monitor. All of the newspapers are cross-searchable within the award-winning ProQuest interface.

The new titles are also available through the Black Studies Center, published by ProQuest's Chadwyck-Healey brand, allowing cross-searching with other content sets focused on the African-American experience. Black Studies Center is a digital resource that creates a framework for undergraduate and graduate level Black Studies courses and filling information gaps that have stymied research and study. Black Studies Center provides a central point of access to the most sought-after documents that chronicle and analyze the Black experience.

JOHN COLLETTA'S *Only A Few Bones*
Reviewed by Elissa Scalise Powell, CGSM

Have you ever read an historical fiction novel and wondered how much is fact and how much is fiction? In John Philip Colletta's book, *Only a Few Bones*, he tells you exactly which details are fact and which are surmised, as each is documented. The book is the culmination of 30 years of research into a mysterious death in John's own ancestry. His painstaking research of every single detail of the lives of the brothers Joe and George Ring makes them and their surroundings come alive as the story unfolds from their immigration journey to Buffalo, NY; their experiences in Cincinnati, OH at the beginning of the Civil War; and the entrepreneurial spirit that drove them to "the Delta" between the Mississippi River and the Yazoo River; and the tragedy experienced there at Rolling Fork Landing. Whether or not you are familiar with these areas of the country, their history and the people who witnessed our changing country both before and after the Civil War will fascinate you.



From the back of the book:

"Sometimes Genealogy Can Be Murder... Family lore claimed his ancestor was murdered in Mississippi. Newspapers and court records said the man and four other victims were killed and incinerated in his remote country store. But the case was never solved. Now, after 30 years of investigating, the great great grandson of the slain carpetbagger – whose charred remains

were 'only a few bones' – reveals what *really* happened at Rolling Fork Landing on that night of March 4, 1873. ... And his conclusion is not what you expect!"

The first thing that may strike you as unique in this book is the 83 pages of End Notes for the 41 chapters. Every fact is documented, from the weather on a particular day to what the people looked like. Such painstaking attention to detail brings this story so alive that you can "see" it before your eyes. Fifty-eight maps and illustrations also enhance the picture painted in your mind's eye. All of this is the culmination of the most complete example of using every type of research method and document type that I have ever read. Every researcher would benefit by Dr. Colletta's example of how to pull all individual facts and documents into a cohesive whole. Plus, it is just a fascinating story with colorful characters painted on a painstakingly detailed background.

You can order *Only a Few Bones* (Washington, DC: Direct Descent, 2000) ISBN 0-9701327-0-0 directly from John Colletta through his website www.genealogyjohn.com or by writing to Direct Descent, 1012 Constitution Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-6224 and tell him where you read this review.

OUR VP AMY ARNER ELECTED TO THE APG BOARD

Amy Arner has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists. During her two-year term, she will represent the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada. Amy is also the president of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, a proofreader for the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and the vice president of the North Hills Genealogists.

GENEALOGY THOUGHTS

By: Steph Valentine

I am currently in the process of scanning and transcribing a treasure trove of letters that my great-great grandfather wrote covering the period from 1855 to 1895. These cover his travels and observations throughout the years. I find them fascinating as they give me an insight into the life and times of Elias Lewis. I often wonder if he kept a journal in addition to these letters. If he did, I suspect it is gone forever.

In past newsletters we have suggested questions to ask our elders, so we could pick their brains before they passed on. We would want to ask them questions about growing up, what their parents were like, their hobbies, memories of wars, etc. It struck me that you could do a similar project for your descendants. Besides trying to keep intact all the genealogical research that you've accomplished, think how a five page autobiography would be appreciated in 2107 by your great-great grandchild who shares a your interest in genealogy.

So my challenge to you is to write your own autobiography. What was it like growing up? What did your parents do? Did your father serve in the Army during a war? What was school like? For me, I remember that we stopped saying The Lord's Prayer in third grade, and when Sputnik went up in 1957. What do you remember of your grandparents? Did you visit them? I remember my grandmother had me make "silver dollar" pancakes. What are your Christmas memories? Was your house heated with coal? My great grandmother told me stories about living in New York City during the blizzard of 1888 and how they were running low on coal immediately after the storm. She also regaled me with stories about going on a chaperoned date in a horse and buggy.

Nonetheless, this is your autobiography. Fill it with personal details and perhaps even trivia because what we take for granted as common

place may not be so in a hundred years. Good luck!

Today's genealogist uses a computer not only for data storage but for research on the Internet. If you are confused about computers, Northland Public Library offers free computer classes covering an introduction to computers, mouse practice, E-mail, introduction to the Internet, and HeritageQuest. These courses are free and are offered twice a month. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. You can find out more about the courses and register at the Northland Computer Center desk or call 412-366-8100 ext 131. The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) also offers a slew of introductory computer courses including a course on genealogy taught by our own Elissa Powell. These courses are not free, but are well worth the money spent.

Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La, has proposed the Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearing House Act of 2005 (S-295; SEARCH Act) for the National Archives and Records Administration. The SEARCH Act will establish a national database within the National Archives and Records Administration. This database will house the various documents that would assist those in search of family history that, because of slavery and segregation, is almost impossible to find in common registers and census records. The SEARCH Act will also authorize \$5 million for local colleges, libraries and organizations to preserve, catalogue and index records accordingly and to help local residents research their own histories.

A similar act, the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act (H.R 390) introduced by Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) builds on the foundation of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act, which was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate in 2000 and which became

(continued on page 58)

GENEALOGY THOUGHTS (*continued from page 57*)

Public Law 106-444. That law required the Archivist of the United States to create a searchable indexing system to catalogue the genealogical records from the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. H.R. 390 will augment the already highly useful catalogue created by the National Archives to protect countless other critically important historic documents.

The Lantos bill directs the National Archives to preserve additional post-Civil War Reconstruction records. It also establishes a grant program for the Archivist to work with various states, universities, colleges, and genealogical institutions to establish digitized databases so that anyone in this country will have access to these treasure troves of information. While these proposed acts deal with black genealogy, they will tie into slave owners. I, for one, am interested because one of my uncles owned three slaves in Washington DC during the Civil War (War of Northern Aggression for you Southerners). Those three slaves and all others in DC were freed by Act by the Federal Government in 1863.

BOARD OF CERTIFIED GENEALOGISTS ADDS SKILLBUILDING SECTION TO WEBSITE

BCG Webiste: Press Release Feb. 7, 2007

The Board for Certification of Genealogists^R has added to the Skillbuilding section of its website www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/worksamples.html an example of a narrative lineage with embedded proof summaries. This example, written by BCG President Connie Lenzen, CG, illustrates how an applicant for CG might address Requirement 7, the Kinship-Determination Project.

President Lenzen's narrative lineage joins a collection of several other work samples already on the BCG website. These examples, written by well-known experts in the field, serve as

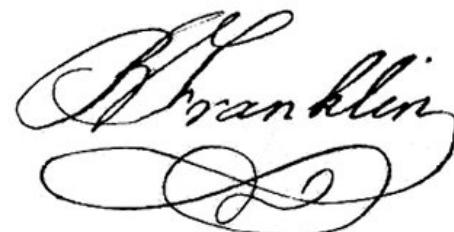
points of reference for all genealogists who aspire to work to BCG's standards as defined in *The Genealogical Standards Manual*. BCG judges measure the work of all applicants against those standards.

Those interested in learning more about BCG and its application requirements are encouraged to spend time exploring the website, www.bcgcertification.org. In addition to work samples, the site provides prospective applicants with a self-scored quiz to measure readiness for certification; exercises to test transcription and abstraction skills; and over twenty skillbuilding articles originally published in BCG's educational newsletter, *OnBoard*. A sample application portfolio will be added to the work samples section in the near future.

Editors Note:

Whether the genealogy is for personal use or is a professional work product, learning how to write a narrative lineage with proper sourcing should be the goal for all genealogists,. The BCG has many wonderful examples and work samples of "How to." Take advantage of their experience and expertise!

"Show me your cemeteries, and I will tell you what kind of people you have."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely representing the name Franklin, is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

BOARD OF CERTIFIED GENEALOGISTS CREDENTIALS

BCG Webiste: Press Release Feb. 8, 2007

The Board for Certification of Genealogists^R announced that it has eliminated the Certified Genealogical Instructor credential. The functionality of this credential has been absorbed by the Tested Concentration mechanism currently in use.

Testing in a specific focus area is offered to associates who wish to apply for official BCG acknowledgment of expertise beyond the requirement of their category. Associates may hold up to three tested concentrations at any given time. Such areas include, but are in no way limited to, Hereditary Society Applications and Native American Lineages.

The application portfolio elements for the tested concentration of Genealogical Instructor are the same as those previously used for the CGI credential and include lesson plans, student outcomes, student materials, and lesson presentations.

This action is part of the board's efforts to retain the careful analysis of uniform standards of competence in genealogical skills. The action taken does not and will not affect the Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer categories, which continue without change.

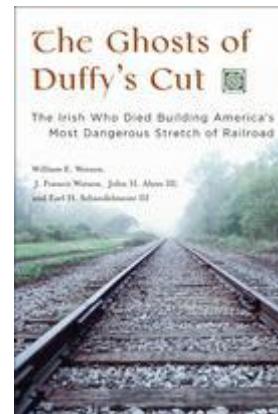
Since its founding in 1964, The Board for Certification of Genealogists has promulgated attainable, uniform standards of competence and ethics that have become accepted throughout the field. Its publication, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual*, sets forth the currently accepted standards for all areas of genealogical research. For more information on the BCG and for Skillbuilding exercises and articles, please see www.BCGcertification.org.

For additional information contact:
Connie Lenzen, CG, at clenzen@dialoregon.net

THE GHOSTS OF DUFFY'S CUT *The Irish Who Died Building America's Most Dangerous Stretch of Railroad*

Written by: William E. Watson, J. Francis Watson,
John H. Ahles, and Earl H. Schandelmeier

In 1832, 57 Irish Catholic workers were brought to the United States to lay one of the most difficult miles of American railway, Duffy's Cut of the Pennsylvania Railroad. These men were chosen because, in the eyes of the railroad company that hired them, they were expendable. Deaths were common during the building of the railway, but this stretch was worse than most. When cholera swept the camp basic medical attention and community support was denied to them. In the end all 57 men (the entire work crew) died and were buried in a mass unmarked grave. Their families in Ireland were never notified about what had happened to them. The company did its best to cover up the incident, which was certainly one of the worst labor tragedies in U.S. history.



Based on archaeological digs at the site and meticulous historical research, this book is set against the backdrop of a rapidly industrializing America, this book tells the story of these men, the sacrifices they made, and the mistreatment that claimed their lives. The saga of Duffy's Cut focuses particularly on the Irish laborers who built the railroads. Who were these men? Who hired them? Why did they come? Perhaps most important, why did they die?

Source: Greenwood Publishing Company, New Releases, www.greenwood.com/catalog/C8727.aspx accessed 01-16-2007.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in learning more about Duffy's Cut, visit the project website at www.duffyscutproject.com.



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UPCOMING – NHG PROGRAMS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

Presented by: Debbie Hill Day, MLIS

Come learn the in's and out's of preserving your paper documents, certificates, and treasured heirlooms with Debbie Hill Day, MLIS, of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society at the Library and Archives of the Heinz History Center. Did you know staples rust, rolling can permanently damage your documents, and lamination is not a preservation technique? That's just the beginning – come and find out more!

THIS MONTH

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

SAILING INTO THE SUNSET:

TIPS FOR FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS ON PASSENGER LISTS

Presented by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

Passenger lists are a wonderful resource for finding more information about the origins of immigrant ancestors: most people have at least one immigrant ancestor who arrived by ship. The records that have been kept over the years are mostly chronological. This lecture reviews the origins and history of passenger lists in an attempt to understand the types of records that exist. Various indexes and research aides, along with examples of records from each of the past three centuries (and where to find them) are discussed, along with Internet sources