



PITTSBURGH'S OWN...

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

BUTLER COUNTY HOSTS GENEALOGICAL EXPO

For the first time, the Butler County Genealogical Society will host a Genealogical Expo on Saturday, April 5, 2008, with support from Mechling Bookbindery. The Genealogical Expo will be held at Butler Senior High School from 8:00 A.M. through 3:30 P.M. All interested genealogists are invited to attend.

With a line-up of national and local genealogical speakers including John Philip Colletta, Lisa Alzo, and Sheila Brown, the Butler County Genealogical Society Expo will offer 16 workshops about topics of interest to all researchers. Topics include: naturalization records, tips for beginners, preparing to publish, citing sources, European research, organization ideas, Butler County, military service records, the Civil War, researching in courthouses, internet research, DNA testing and genealogy, and preservation and storage of photos.

Registration includes four workshop sessions, breakfast, and lunch. Early registration is due before January 1, 2008, at \$35.00 for BCGS members and \$45.00 for non-members. Registration will be accepted until March 31, 2008 at a higher rate.

Refer to the Butler County Genealogical Society's website for program details, speaker biographies, detailed travel directions, and registration forms for the April 5th Expo: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~pabutle2>.

<http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org/>

JUMPSTART RESEARCH WITH NHG MEMBERSHIP

You are just beginning your family tree research, and you don't know where to start. You have been working on your genealogy research for several years and have reached a dead end. You research only one family line because it is "the easiest one." Your research has stalled, because you don't know where to look, what to ask, or how to go online at the local library.

If any of these scenarios describe your situation or that of a friend, then you have come to the right place! The North Hills Genealogists will provide you with the tips, tools, and topical discussions that you need to start your research, organize your files, identify your next steps, and use the resources available in the library, on the internet, and elsewhere. Read through your NHG newsletter for details on upcoming programs, articles featuring tips, and other "Members Only" opportunities.

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2007-2008

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For information:

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

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 Township in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 P.M., and our general meeting commences at 7:00 P.M. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

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

The North Hills Genealogists Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the North Hills Genealogists organization. Consider joining us this year!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There is a stunning collection of museum quality rooms located on the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. The rooms are gifts to the university from various ethnic communities in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Known as the Nationality Rooms, they are designed to re-create cultures from around the world. Former Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar said: "In their diversity, the rooms preserve and honor our ethnic identities and, collectively, they symbolize our national unity."

Starting with four rooms opened in 1938, there are currently 26 rooms representing the distinctive history and artistic heritage of cultures from Africa to Yugoslavia. Twenty-four are functioning classrooms. In addition, there are eight rooms in the planning stage: Danish, Finnish, Latin American/Caribbean, Philippine, Swiss, Thai, Turkish, and Welsh. A Welson Room is currently under construction and will be completed in early 2008. They are all designed to represent periods prior to 1787, the year in which the University was founded. You can see more information about the rooms at <http://www.pitt.edu/~natrooms>.

There is a Holiday Open House of the rooms on Sunday, December 2, 2007, from Noon to 4:00 P.M. All of the rooms are decorated in the conventional holidays styles of earlier eras for the occasion with the guides attired in ethnic dress. In addition, there are traditional performances, ethnic foods, craft demonstrations, and an ethnic marketplace. It is an exciting and informative event which you don't want to miss!

Since this is the last newsletter of this year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish each of you and your families the very best of the Holiday Season. I hope that 2007 was a successful year in your pursuit of family history and that all of your brick walls crumble in 2008!

~Dave

TIPS FOR WINTER RESEARCH

Written by Sue Ennis

Don't forget to take advantage of local research facilities throughout the coming winter months. The most common reason that our genealogical projects collect dust between Thanksgiving and the advent of spring is our concern about traveling during winter. I encourage you to resolve to continue your search for your roots locally in the upcoming months, despite the snowy conditions!

First of all, I recommend setting aside some time to expand your family tree by researching at Northland Library. The genealogical holdings at Northland are numerous and varied. Take advantage of using Northland's online subscription services, such as Ancestry.com, which you might not have access to from home. Even if your ancestors are not from Western Pennsylvania, the resources at Northland Library are still invaluable and plentiful.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland has an extensive collection of sources for genealogical research. The Pennsylvania Department is located on the third floor of the Carnegie. It contains genealogical sources for Allegheny County, Western Pennsylvania, and many other locations across the state. The expert workers are very knowledgeable regarding the library's reference materials. If you can arrange to visit the Carnegie Library on a weekday morning, you can avoid the crowds.

Smaller local libraries are just as valuable for genealogists in Western Pennsylvania. If you know the community in which your ancestor resided, there is a chance that the local library branch will carry historical materials about the community. Although it is time consuming, accessing local newspaper archives or clippings can produce interesting tidbits about special events in the lives of your ancestors. Most commonly you will locate announcements of births, deaths, engagements, marriages, and civic awards. At local libraries, ask the

librarian if there are any special collections about centennial events, war veterans, or local festivals. Occasionally a name of a known ancestor will pop up. Whenever I return to the local libraries in my ancestors' towns to conduct research, I always leave with additional facts that I had not discovered during previous visits.

One of the most valuable suggestions that I have for my fellow genealogists is to make time this winter to review your facts for each branch of your family tree. If you read over your latest findings while you update your records, you can also create a plan for future research sessions. Make a genealogical "To Do" list of people or sources to focus upon when you resume your search. Write down questions to solve on your own or with the help of others. You can stay close to home this winter and still make progress with your genealogical research!

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, December 1, 2007

NHG Holiday Social

Join your fellow North Hills Genealogists for an opportunity to socialize and talk about genealogy on Saturday, December 1st. This NHG outing offers two options for the historical activity - all day or just the afternoon - followed by dinner together at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh's Strip District at 2601 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222.

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

BASICS FOR ALL GENEALOGISTS

Genealogists of all levels will benefit from this month's meeting presentation by Debbie Day. She will cover basic how-to methods and preliminary decisions to be made by those just starting out, as well as research information helpful to the more experienced genealogist. Learn about records and resources to search, both on-line and traditional, record keeping tools, how to analyze data and cite your sources, and the all-important internet safety tips for sharing information with strangers.

NATIONAL RECORDS CENTER OPENS NEW MILITARY FILES

Press Release

October 22, 2007

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) will open for the first time all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired, or died while in the service, prior to 1946.

Collectively, these files comprise more than six million records. This is the second step in the progressive opening of the entire paper and microfiche OMPF collection of over 57 million individual files. Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year through 2067 until the entire collection is opened.

These archived files are treasured by family members, historians, researchers, and genealogists. Contained in a typical OMPF are documents outlining all elements of military service, including assignments, evaluations, awards and decorations, education and training, demographic information, some medical information, and documented disciplinary actions. Some records also contain photographs of the individual and official correspondence concerning military service.

To view an original record, individuals may visit the NPRC Archival Research Room in St. Louis, Missouri. The telephone number there is 314-801-0850. Research room hours are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Central Time, Tuesday through Friday. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call ahead to make reservations.

To obtain copies of records, customers may write to NPRC at 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis,

MO 63132, fax a request to 314-801-9195, or submit a request through the NPRC website at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or on a Standard Form 180.

Information about records available at NPRC is also posted on the National Personnel Records Center homepage at <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html>.

Archived, public records are subject to the National Archives and Records Administration's published fee schedule. Copy fees for archived OMPFs are waived for veterans or primary next-of-kin (surviving spouse or children of the veteran) if the records are needed to validate a benefit or entitlement.

The fee schedule for OMPFs is as follows:

1. OMPFs 5 pages or less: \$15
2. OMPFs 6 pages or more: \$50
*Most OMPFs fall into this category.
3. OMPFs of Persons of Exceptional Prominence (PEP): \$0.75 per page
*(PEP records include the OMPFs of famous individuals such as former Presidents, famous military leaders, decorated military heroes, celebrities, entertainers, and professional athletes who left military service and have been deceased for at least 10 years.)

Archived records are subject to a limited privacy exemption under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. As such, all records are reviewed prior to release and social security numbers are redacted.

For more information, contact Bryan McGraw, Director of Archival Programs at NPRC, at 314-801-9132.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE NHG
HOLIDAY SOCIAL AT THE
SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE ON
DECEMBER 1, 2007!**

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF UTAH (GSU) ANNOUNCE DIGITIZING PARTNERSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

October 23, 2007

Washington, DC - Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein and Wayne Metcalfe, vice-president of the Genealogical Society of Utah, today announced a five-year partnership agreement to digitize case files of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers from the National Archives. GSU has many years of experience microfilming historical records at the National Archives and throughout the world and in recent years has moved to providing digital capture and publishing services. Digitization makes possible unprecedented access to the unique historic documents in the custody of the National Archives.

This partnership will begin with a pilot project to digitize, index, and make available the first 3,150 of the pension files. Upon successful completion of the pilot, GSU, doing business as FamilySearch, in conjunction with Footnote.com, intends to digitize and index all 1,280,000 Civil War and later widows' files in the series. These records, of great interest to genealogists and others, are currently available only at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The widows' pension application files, a rich source of information about ordinary American citizens of the time, include supporting documents such as affidavits, depositions of witnesses, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, and pages from family bibles.

"For a number of years we have had a very productive relationship with FamilySearch," said Professor Allen Weinstein. "This agreement expands our relationship to enable

online access to some of the most popular and voluminous records in our holdings. It is an exciting step forward for our institution and for the American people," he added.

"There is an unbelievable treasure trove of genealogical information housed in the records of the National Archives; the vast majority of which genealogy enthusiasts have never seen," said Wayne Metcalfe. "The growing digital collection and indices that will stem from this relationship will be a priceless resource for countless family historians and researchers."

FamilySearch will make the digitized materials available for free through the web site <http://www.FamilySearch.org/> and in 4,500 family history centers worldwide, or on a subscription-based web site operated by a third party, subject to National Archives approval. They will also be available at no charge in National Archives' research rooms in Washington, DC and regional facilities across the country. In addition, FamilySearch will donate to the National Archives a copy of all the digital images and the associated indexes and other metadata that they create.

This agreement is one of a series of agreements that the National Archives has reached or will reach with partners to digitize its holdings.

GENEALOGYBANK ANNOUNCES 3 MILLION NEW ARTICLES OF DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS

PRESS RELEASE

November 16, 2007

Naples, FL - GenealogyBank, a leading online provider of historical and recent newspapers for family history research, announced today the addition of 100 fully searchable historical newspapers. These newspapers will add three
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GENEALOGYBANK NEWSPAPERS

(continued from page 35)

million new articles filled with significant genealogical content. GenealogyBank now has over 106 million historical newspaper articles online for family history research.

Next month, GenealogyBank will add another 100 newspapers, including over two million new articles. Now complementing more than 210 million family history records, this latest addition will expand coverage to over 2,200 U.S. newspapers in all 50 states.

"With over 300 years of historical newspapers at your fingertips, you can easily discover a breadth of information about your ancestors' across generations," says Genealogy Director for NewsBank, Inc., Tom Kemp.

The addition features big city dailies and regional weeklies including: Trenton (NJ) State Gazette (1863-1888), Arkansas (AK) Intelligencer (1845-1858), Tucson (AZ) Daily Citizen (1900-1922), Augusta (GA) Herald (1799-1815), Portland (OR) Oregonian (1911-1916), and many others. To view an entire list of the digitized newspapers, go to the following: <http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/newcontent.html>. GenealogyBank, celebrating its first anniversary online, continues to add millions of new documents a month to its constantly growing collection of newspapers and other valuable family history records.

APG ANNOUNCES NEW ONLINE DATABASES FOR GENEALOGISTS

PRESS RELEASES

November 14, 2007 - The London's Children's Hospital Records database is now on-line at: <http://www.smallandspecial.org/>.

The following excerpt is from the website:

"The Admission Registers of the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, from its opening in February 1852 until December 31, 1914, form the core of this project, and will be complemented at a later date by Registers of Cromwell House, the hospital's convalescent home, from 1869 until December 1910. The Hospital Registers are of uniform format. Each entry gives the child's name, age (in years and months), sex, and address. Further columns give diagnosis, which can include as many as four separate conditions, date of admission into the hospital and date of attack. The date of discharge is recorded, along with the result of treatment. A column for remarks gives added details of medical treatment and the name of sponsor of the patient."

November 7, 2007 - Oklahoma's Counties Records are going online. Carolyn Caudill, the county clerk for Oklahoma County, will speak at the Southwest Oklahoma Genealogy Society meeting on November 19. Her topic is to describe the major project of getting land records online for each of the 77 counties in the state of Oklahoma. Caudill is directly responsible for implementing computerized software applications that are revolutionizing the County Clerk's functions. Researchers now have free access to Oklahoma County land record documents from 1890 to the present. Soon the other counties will make their records available online as well.

QUERY to NHG

SWEENEY, Dennis and Cecelia, b. Ireland, early 1800s. Lived in vicinity of 18th and Penn Ave. (old 10th Ward) in Pittsburgh. Parents of: Edward, Margaret, Catherine (m. to Coll), Anna (m. to Hughes), and Mary (m. to John Shields in St. Paul's Cathedral on Grant St. in 1872). Also daughter Susanna - no record after 1872. Dennis d. 1889, Cecelia d. 1899, buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Contact: *Doree Shields, 618 Malibran Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5658.*

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, November 28 7:00 P.M.

The Cranberry Genealogy Club will meet in the Library Conference Room of the Cranberry Township Municipal Building at 2525 Rochester Road. Rebekah Sheeler will present "A Historical Perspective of Butler County." During her program, learn about the history of Butler County, including the indigenous people, European settlement, and the county's role in the French and Indian and the Civil Wars. Infrastructure development and Butler's famous sons and daughters will also be discussed. For more information about the Cranberry Genealogy Club, including how to join, go to: <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org/>.

Saturday, January 12 10 A.M.-Noon

The next meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (WPGS) will be Saturday, January 12, 2008, in the Lecture Hall of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland Area). Dr. Yang Cai will present "Reconstructing Gravestones."

Family historians know how frustrating it can be to try to decipher inscriptions from aged and illegible tombstones, but now an exciting new scientific technique can assist! Scientists are making high resolution 3D scans of tombstones to detect carved figures and words which are all but lost to us now. Dr. Yang Cai, director of the Ambient Intelligence Lab at Carnegie Mellon Cylab, and members of his team, will discuss their new techniques and the "digital cemetery" pilot project, which they have conducted at Old St. Luke's Cemetery.

This WPGS program is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information, visit: <http://www.wpgs.org/> or call 412-687-6811. There is a \$5.00 parking fee at the Carnegie Library lot.

NHG SECRETARY WANTED

POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY:

The North Hills Genealogists are looking for nominee volunteers to fill the position of **NHG SECRETARY** for the remainder of the program year, January through July, 2008. The primary duties are to prepare the minutes of each NHG Board meeting, distribute them to the Board members prior to the next Board meeting, and maintain a file of all Board meeting minutes. NHG Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Northland Public Library. If you are interested in the position of **NHG SECRETARY**, please notify the NHG Board of your interest at INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org. This is a nice opportunity for someone to participate in the North Hills Genealogists in a new way!

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ANNOUNCES PROGRAM DATES

The National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) is an annual weeklong program at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and College Park, Maryland. The 2008 NIGR program will be held from July 13 - 19.

NIGR offers "an intensive program to examine federal records and designed for experienced researchers." Enrollment for the NIGR program is limited. Application brochures will be mailed in February 2008 to all who are interested.

The 2008 program will focus upon well-known and lesser-known federal records of interest to family historians. Tuition for NIGR is \$350 for applications postmarked on or before 15 May 2008, or \$400 after that date. For more information, or to be added to the mailing list, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/>.

[Editor's Note: I attended NIGR in 1999 and would be happy to answer questions, if you are interested.]

HEINZ HISTORY CENTER HOSTS OPENING OF COAL MINING EXHIBIT ON DECEMBER 1ST

On Saturday, December 1, 2007, the Senator John Heinz History Center will unveil its newest exhibit, *The Darkest Month*, and offer a one-day symposium related to the exhibit. According to the Heinz History Center's press release, "*The Darkest Month* exhibit and symposium commemorates the 100th anniversary of the worst month in coal mining history by exploring the lives of the Italian, Hungarian, and other immigrant coal miners, who came to America in search of work, and their collective legacy as employees in one of the region's most important - yet often overlooked - industries."

Registration is required for *The Darkest Month* Symposium, postmarked by November 20, 2007. The cost is \$19.07 per person, which includes admission to the symposium, breakfast reception, *The Darkest Month* exhibit, and all of the History Center's permanent exhibits.

Interested individuals can also access the Heinz History Center website by following the link to <http://www.pghhistory.org/> and then click on "Exhibits" on the far left side of the web page. Follow the links about *The Darkest Month* until you click on the registration form. For more information about the opening of *The Darkest Month* exhibit or the related symposium, please contact Nicholas Ciotola at (412) 454 - 6433 or npciotola@hswp.org.

NHG HOLIDAY SOCIAL AT SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE

At 4:30 P.M. on December 1st, the North Hills Genealogists will meet for dinner at The Spaghettic Warehouse. This restaurant is located at 2601 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, and there is free parking adjacent to the restaurant. Read the reservation form on page 38 of this newsletter for more details. Reservations are still being accepted this week.

NEW HISTORICAL BOOK ABOUT PITTSBURGH'S NORTH SIDE RELEASED

Pittsburgher Lisa A. Miles has released her newest book, *Resurrecting Allegheny City: The Land, Structures & People of Pittsburgh's North Side* this month. The publication of this book is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and from The Buhl Foundation.

The book presents a detailed portrait of Allegheny City from the 1790s through December 9, 1907, when it was annexed by the City of Pittsburgh and became known as the North Side. Based upon the written reviews, *Resurrecting Allegheny City: The Land, Structures & People of Pittsburgh's North Side* will be of interest to family historians who can trace their ancestral homes to this area of Pittsburgh.

In honor of the book's release, author Lisa A. Miles will appear at book signings at the following locations, dates, and times:

Friday, November 23 Borders Pgh Mills 1 P.M.;

Saturday, November 24 Borders North McKnight Road 2:30 P.M.;

Thursday, November 29 Borders, Monroeville at 7 P.M.;

Saturday, December 1 Holiday Book Fair at the Heinz History Center 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.;

Friday, December 14 Bistro To Go, East Ohio Street 1:30 P.M.; and

Saturday, December 22 Priory Fine Pastries, East Ohio Street, 1 P.M.

In addition, there will be an **Author Reception** on the weekend of the North Side Centennial on Saturday, December 8, 2007 from 2:00 - 10:00 P.M. at Lisa A. Miles "Old Allegheny" Home at 35 Overlook Street, Perry Hilltop.

Genealogists with ties to Pittsburgh's North Side or to Allegheny City may be interested in meeting the author or obtaining the book.

RESERVATION FORM

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
HOLIDAY SOCIAL on Saturday, December 1

Senator John Heinz History Center and The Spaghetti Warehouse

Plan to attend the annual Holiday Social of the North Hills Genealogists on Saturday, December 1, 2007. Traditionally, the NHG Social includes a historical activity and a shared meal. This year we have the option to attend the opening of an exhibit at the Heinz History Center about Coal Mining, called *The Darkest Month*, which includes a one-day symposium. The cost of \$19.07 includes breakfast, the workshops, and all of the exhibits in the Heinz History Center. Registration is required with the Heinz History Center if you plan to attend the symposium. (See page 38 of this newsletter for detailed information about registration.) If you prefer, simply tour the Heinz History Center on your own in the afternoon prior to dinner.

At 4:30 P.M. the North Hills Genealogists will meet nearby for dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse. The cost for the dinner is \$13.50, which includes entree, bread, house salad, non-alcoholic beverage, tax, and gratuity. The entree choices are: Spaghetti with Meatballs, Incredible 15-layer Lasagna, Four Cheese Manicotti, Fettuccini Alfredo, OR Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. Each person will receive a separate check. Mark your calendar now for this event!

Reservation form due A.S.A.P. (NO MONEY)
(Mail to: North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127)

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____

_____ Number planning to attend dinner with the NHG at The Spaghetti Warehouse.

P.O. Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, December 1, 2007

ANNUAL NHG HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Attend the opening of an exhibit at the Heinz History Center at 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 for the whole day or just tour in the afternoon before meeting for dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse with the NHG. "The Darkest Hour" exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the worst month in coal mining history by exploring the lifestyles of immigrant coal miners in America. Join the NHG members, and bring a friend or family member!

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

BASICS FOR ALL GENEALOGISTS

Genealogists of all levels will benefit from this month's presentation by Debbie Day. She will cover basic how-to methods and preliminary decisions to be made by those just starting out, as well as research information helpful to the more experienced genealogist. Learn about records and resources to search, both on-line and traditional, record keeping tools, how to analyze data and cite your sources, and the all-important internet safety tips when sharing information with strangers.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007

ANNUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Join the North Hills Genealogists for the annual Round Table Discussion meeting. This is a great opportunity to jump start your family research, just in time for holiday gatherings. Everyone from beginning to experienced genealogists can learn something, so bring your questions and/or listen to the discussions on a variety of genealogical topics as we go 'round the table!