



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

PO Box 169 • Wexford, PA 15090 • www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

SEARCHING FOR THE LAST MUSTER

By Maureen Taylor

In 2002, a single photo changed my life. As soon as I looked at the daguerreotype of Jonathan Leonard and heard the family story of how he spent the Revolutionary War in Bermuda as a loyalist, I was hooked. If there was one image of a person who lived in revolutionary war times, there must be more. I was aware of Benson Lossing's *Field Book of the Revolution* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1860. CD Heritage Books, 2004) as well as the Reverend Elias Hillard's *Last Men of the Revolution* (N.A. and R.A. Moore, 1864. reprint. Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1968). After reviewing Lossing and Hillard's work, I wondered if it was possible to use photographic and documentary evidence to recreate the first generation of Americans—those men, women, and children bound together by having lived during the Revolutionary War. I realized it was conceivable that there were pictures—daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, ferro-types and even paper photographs of members of that generation as long as they lived into the age of photography. Rather than just looking for veterans, I wanted to explore the diversity of revolutionary war society—soldiers, loyalists, wives, widows, Quakers, immigrants, and slaves. I even wanted to know what children were doing while their fathers and mothers were busy with war-time activities and find their photos. Eight years later these inquiries resulted in *The Last Muster: Images of the Revolutionary War Generation* (Kent State University Press, 2010) which contains seventy images.

A United States Pension Office report in the December 10, 1852, *New York Times* outlined the number of men and women who received support under various acts and how many were still on the rolls and gave me an estimate of just how many possible portraits could be out there—over eight thousand! Turns out it wasn't easy to locate photographs of individuals born in the eighteenth century but who lived after the 1839 advent of picture-taking. It was a search for the senior members of their generation. Most of the men and women in the book were eighty to one hundred years of age at the time of their portraits, with some being much older. Of course, not every individual sat for a likeness and even if they did, there are hundreds of unidentified images in private and public collections.

The first challenge was not only locating portraits of these first Americans, but finding images with names attached. I spoke with curators, wrote articles directed at family historians, and promoted the project to dealers and collectors. Targeted emails to historical societies and relevant organizations like the
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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. 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.

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 NHG members.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I cannot believe it has been two years since I was voted in as the North Hills Genealogists president. Time has flown, and it is time for the next president to begin. The rules of our organization state that a person can only be the president for two consecutive one-year terms. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the NHG for your support during my terms!

In my articles, I tried to share ideas I had learned and what I had found during my research. This idea was mine to hopefully aid you in your own research and possibly present ideas you might not have known. Since we do not publish a newsletter in July, this is my last article as president.

Some closing thoughts from me are included here. I would encourage you to review your genealogical notes. I have always kept a suspect list of information either in a Microsoft *Word* document or printed and placed in a special folder. There is a suspect list for each of the main surnames of my ancestors. From time to time I look through this list and find some information that had not meant anything to me when I first found it, but that now fits into my current research. I would then include all the information I had found at that earlier time plus the refined information. Be sure to list the book title, volume, ISBN, or if online, the link and any other information that pertains to your findings for accurate citing of sources.

Records I have discovered information in: probate records, birth/marriage/death records, naturalization records, court transcripts, land records, census records, obituaries, passport applications, and immigration/emigration records. There are others, so this list includes just a few where I have discovered information during my research. Some web sites I have used in my discoveries are: Ancestry.com,

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page 92)

Footnote.com, FamilySearch.org and HeritageQuest. I have visited the Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Room, Family History Centers, and the Heinz History Center locally for on-site research.

I did not do this all at once, but over time. Perhaps by recapping my journey, I have given you a new idea for your own research. I wish you luck in your research and hope that my monthly President's Corner articles have helped you or at least given you ideas.

It has been a pleasure serving you as NHG president, and I hope you give your support to the new president just like you gave your support to me.

~ Al

LAST MUSTER (continued from page 91)

Daguerreian Society helped, as did articles in genealogical magazines. Little by little, images started trickling in.

Researching their lives was the second challenge. The vast majority of these individuals were not wealthy, most could not write, and many of them left no written record of their life. Following the documentary breadcrumbs of their lives meant investigating photo evidence, such as their clothing, props, the photographer, and any other detail present in the image. In addition documents such as federal census records (available on Ancestry.com and on HeritageQuest), vital records, and military pension files (available on Footnote.com) helped fill in the gaps in their personal lives. Also, printed sources such as published autobiographies, biographies, and local histories supplemented the primary source documentation. A short biographical vignette accompanies each of the seventy portraits in

The Last Muster.

The search isn't over.

So do you have a Revolutionary War ancestor (on either side of the conflict) who lived after 1839? I've begun working on a volume 2. If you have an ancestor that fits the criteria listed in this article, please contact me at mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com.

Maureen Taylor, www.maureentaylor.com, is known as *The Photo Detective*. You can find her on Facebook, Twitter, and Vimeo.com. Sign up for her free e-newsletter on her website.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS' 2011 FALL CONFERENCE

The fourth annual NHG Fall Conference, *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: Linking Evidence*, will be held Saturday, 22 October 2011. The new location for this one-day conference is the Ingomar United Methodist Church on West Ingomar Road in McCandless Township. The day will begin at 9:00 A.M. with two morning sessions, a hot lunch, two afternoon sessions, and end by 4:00 P.M. after a question and answer session.

This year's speaker is Dr. Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, a popular lecturer and author. For our fall conference, he will present four lectures: "Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor," "Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestors' Identities Indirectly," "Five Proven Techniques for Finding Your Ancestor's European Origins," and "Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages." Each of these presentations will provide detailed information, practical methods, and illustrative examples.

Brochures are available at meetings and at <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>. The early bird discount of \$35 for NHG members and \$45 for non-members is due by 20 September 2011. After that date, the fees are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY UNVEILS CIVIL WAR RECORDS COURSE

Press Release

25 April 2011

Arlington, VA – The National Genealogical Society proudly announces the release of its newest American Genealogy Studies course, Introduction to Civil War Records, developed by renowned military expert Craig Roberts Scott, CG.

Craig Roberts Scott is a nationally recognized lecturer, educator, and genealogical and historical researcher with more than thirty years experience. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and specializes in the diverse military records at the National Archives.

Besides being CEO and President of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm, Craig coordinates the Military tracks at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Birmingham, Alabama. He has authored *The "Lost Pensions": Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838* and *Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Inventory 14* (Revised).

Now, Craig brings his military expertise to NGS with the Introduction to Civil War Records. In this seven chapter course, Craig introduces numerous records including compiled service records, prisoner of war records, and pension files created for, during, and after the war. He provides strategies to identify and locate information on an ancestor living at the time of the Civil War.

This NGS American Genealogy Studies course is available on CD-ROM as a PDF file compatible for a PC- or MAC for \$35.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. For further information, or to purchase the course,

visit the NGS website at <http://ngsgenealogy.org> and click on Learning Center.

The NGS American Genealogy Studies are designed for both the beginner and the established genealogist. These busy individuals want to learn about a specific topic and put the ensuing knowledge to work quickly. NGS courses offer the convenience of completing a genealogy study at their own pace in their home.

Additional courses include:

- American Genealogy: Home Study Course
- Introduction to Religious Records
- Social Security Sleuthing
- Special Federal Census Schedules
- Transcribing, Extracting, and Abstracting in Genealogical Records
- Working with Deeds

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

OUT OF THIS FURNACE

The Unseam'd Shakespeare Company is presenting the play *Out of This Furnace* 8 June through 2 July 2011. The play, written by Andy Wolk, is based on the novel by Thomas Bell. It describes three generations of an immigrant Slovak family, some of whom work in steel mills in the Pittsburgh area.

The performances are at the Studio Theatre in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. The address is 4200 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15213. The show runs Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 P.M. and Sundays at 4:00 P.M. For more information, please visit <http://www.unseamd.com/main.html>.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 22 June 2011, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

The next Cranberry Genealogy Club meeting will be on 22 June. The group will be watching a video on genealogical interviewing. The meeting will be held in the Library Conference Room at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about the club, please visit <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

Monday, 18 July 2011, 7:00 P.M. TARENTUM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next TGS meeting will be held on 18 July. The speaker and topic are to be determined. The meeting will be held in the social hall of the Central Presbyterian Church, 305 Allegheny Street, Tarentum. Go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~patgs> for more details.

Saturday, 6 August 2011, 9:30 A.M. AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY LIBRARY WORKSHOP

The Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society are sponsoring a day-long workshop on 6 August. *Discovering Your Ancestors Online* will feature Laura Prescott, Edward Loera, and Judith Hartley Porter. Lectures will include "Genealogy Research Online: Site and Strategies That May Surprise You," "Find Your Family on Footnote.com," "Ancestry Library Edition," HeritageQuest Online," and "FamilySearch: The Largest Source of Free Genealogy." The event will be held at the Main Library Auditorium in Akron from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.. More details for this free event are available online at <http://sc.akronlibrary.org>.

Sunday-Friday, 14-19 August 2011 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (D.C.) will be the host for the 2011 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The conference headquarters will be the Grand Hyatt Washington. The hotel is conveniently located on the DC Metro and is five blocks from the National Archives. A special event during the conference will be a Jewish Film Festival, focusing on documentaries. For more information and a registration brochure, please visit <http://dc2011.com>.

Wednesday-Saturday, 7-10 Sept 2011 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their annual conference in Springfield, Illinois, on 7-10 September. This year's theme is "Pathways to the Heartland." The conference sessions will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. A list of sessions and a registration form are available at <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/index.php>. The early bird registration deadline is 1 July 2011. FGS also has a blog for the conference at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org>.

Saturday, 1 October 2011 TARENTUM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Tarentum Genealogical Society will hold their annual conference on 1 October. It will be held at the Clarion Hotel in New Kensington. James Beidler will be the featured speaker. More details will be forthcoming. Watch <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~patgs> for more information.

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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

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3-7 October 2011

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BRITISH GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History's annual institute will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from Monday, 3 October through Friday, 7 October 2011. The instructors will be Barbara Baker, AG, David Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, and John M. Kitzmiller, II, AG.

Ms. Baker will teach "Finding Records of Property Ownership in England." Mr. Rencher will teach "Genealogical Research in Ireland – Advanced Methodology." Mr. Kitzmiller will teach "The Amazing Honourable East India Company."

The classes will be held at the Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown, 215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. To register or for more information, go to the society's web site <http://www.isbgfh.org>.

23-27 January 2012

SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY

Registration is now open for the 2012 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, which will be held 23-27 January at the Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown in Salt Lake City, Utah. Twelve courses on a variety of genealogical topics will be offered, including New England research; Mid-West research; Swedish research; genealogy software and research tools; and advanced methodological methods. There are optional evening sessions that require an additional fee. The early bird registration deadline is 30 October 2011. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?eid=6>.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

During World War II, conscientious objectors were able to serve their country in non-military roles through the Civilian Public Service. Participants in the program did work of national importance under civilian direction. This work included caring for the mentally ill, completing forestry projects, fighting forest fires, helping on farms, and working on soil conservation projects. A new web site describes the program and has a database of 12,000 conscientious objectors who participated. It was mostly men who served, but a few women volunteered for the service. The web site is <http://civilianpublicservice.org>. An annotated bibliography on conscientious objectors and the program is included on the web site.

The Civilian Public Service had 150 work camps across the country. The web site has an interactive map showing the locations of the camps. Eventually each camp will have a page describing the work done at the camp, the dates it was open, how many men worked at the camp, and what life was like in the camp. The pages for some camps include pictures.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Excerpted from *Jots from the Point*, volume 37, no. 6, June/July 2011.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives and Records Center is seeking genealogy research volunteers, particularly individuals who enjoy doing genealogy with at least some research experience. In addition to genealogy research, Archives and Records Center offers other opportunities such as indexing and data entry. Computer skills, including Microsoft *Word* and data entry, are not necessary but certainly a plus. The Diocese of Pittsburgh's holdings include baptism, first communion, confirmation, marriage, death, and orphanage records. Interested persons should contact Ken White or Burriss Esplen at 412-456-3158.

ANNOUNCING THE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Press Release

May 6, 2011

Pittsburgh, PA – GRIP – The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh – a new genealogical institute of learning – announces a genealogy educational opportunity planned for July 2012. Consisting of four courses, it will be held Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27, 2012, at LaRoche College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. According to Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL, and Deborah Lichtner Deal, directors of GRIP, “The demand for in-depth genealogical education is so high that week-long courses sell out shortly after registration opens, disappointing many potential students. At the same time genealogists who have taken many courses want new content.” GRIP seeks to satisfy this growing need for high-quality genealogy education through its week-long courses with internationally recognized instructors.

Nestled in the Pittsburgh suburbs, LaRoche’s campus includes economical air-conditioned “en suite” dorm accommodations steps from the classrooms, a buffet-style cafeteria, and free parking. The instructors are all experienced researchers, lecturers, and writers who bring their expertise into the classroom with case studies and problem solving exercises. Registration will begin in February.

The classes are:

Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA. Warren focuses on unusual resources, manuscripts, methodology, and analyzing records. She researches across the U.S. and has coordinated and taught at multiple genealogical institutes and conferences. Warren serves on the Federation of Genealogical Societies board and is President of the Northland Chapter of the

Association of Professional Genealogists.

Advanced Research Methods with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS. Jones has edited the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* since 2002. A former trustee and a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, he works as a researcher, writer, editor, and educator. Jones coordinates courses at Samford University’s Institute on Genealogy and Historical Research, at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and he teaches in Boston University’s Genealogical Research Certificate program.

Beneath the Home Page: Problem Solving with Online Repositories with D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS. Taylor is Director of Education and Programs at New England Historic Genealogical Society, and has appeared on the television program “Who Do You Think You Are?” A frequent speaker at various venues, Taylor is a course coordinator for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He is also Vice President of Administration for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), where he serves as co-chair of the FGS/ISGS 2011 National Conference.

German Genealogical Research with John T. Humphrey, CG. Humphrey is an award winning author who specializes in German and Pennsylvania research. In 2010 he was invited to give a presentation on researching Germans in America in the Rhineland-Palatinate; in 2008, at the request of the German Embassy, he presented the keynote address at the 400th Anniversary Celebration commemorating four centuries of German immigration into the United States. Humphrey is a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and past vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh will serve a need for in-depth genealogical education in the Mid-Atlantic
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GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

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region and nationally. Located about 300 miles from major cities such as Cincinnati, Ohio; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Detroit, Michigan; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Rochester, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, West Virginia; and Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh is strategically placed and economical to visit.

The directors of GRIP have been doing genealogical research for a combined 40 years and have volunteered thousands of hours to various genealogical societies. Deborah Lichtner Deal is an Ohio Genealogical Society Trustee and has run their week-long Summer Workshop for over ten years. Deal also has attended both Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and the Institute for Genealogy and Historic Research (IGHR) at Samford University, winning its prized Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr., award in 2010. She is a local lecturer and southeast Ohio researcher.

Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL, is a Board for Certification of Genealogists Trustee and instructor at Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She is the course coordinator for the Professional Genealogy course at IGHR and has attended the National Institute for Genealogical Research in Washington, D. C. She wrote part and instructs in part of Boston University's fourteen-week Genealogical Research Certificate course. She has encouraged others in their genealogical education in the classroom and by teaching online. Powell is past-president of two Pittsburgh area genealogical societies and served six years as a board director for the Association of Professional Genealogists. She has video lectures available through the PMC Webcast link at <http://www.APGen.org> on choosing the best continuing education options and on professional development.

The directors' commitment to genealogy educational excellence is shown in this newly-formed institute. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.GRIPitt.org>.

ERIE, PA CEMETERY RECORDS PUBLISHED

Press Release

June 2011

Erie, PA - The Erie Society for Genealogical Research (ESGR) is happy to announce the printing of their latest publication designed to help with genealogy of Erie County ancestors. This book is titled *Burials in Waterford Cemetery, Waterford, Erie County, PA*. Published in 2010, the book is softbound and contains 230 pages. This listing combines the information from a very thorough tombstone reading done by ESGR in the summer of 2009, and two older partial readings done in about 1922 and about 1955, and contains over 7300 burials. There are twice as many listings as from the previous readings, but many stones are listed as no longer being found. The price is \$18.00 with a \$3.00 shipping fee.

The Erie Society for Genealogical Research is a non-profit organization run by volunteer officers elected by the membership. ESGR is an independent society affiliated with the Erie County Historical Society located at 417-419 State Street in Erie, PA. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month [except January and August] at 7:00 P.M. at the Erie County Historical Society History Center. Doors open at 6:40 and close at 7:10. For more information: <http://erie.pa-roots.com>, or ESGR, P.O. Box 1403, Erie, PA 16512-1403.

QUERY

FORD – Interested in information regarding the Ford family in Franklin and Marshall Townships. Contact: *Jack L. Ford, 3044 Yankee Clipper Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89117-3509*, or call 702-228-4810 or e-mail ACChief@aol.com.

RENEWAL FORM FOR 2011 – 2012 MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

The annual membership year for the North Hills Genealogists begins August 1 and ends July 31. The cost of a one-year membership is \$15.00, which includes ten issues of the NHG newsletter. Remember: if you receive your newsletter by e-mail, you will receive the monthly issue BEFORE that month's meeting and have fully functioning links to all web sites discussed. If you choose to receive your newsletter by postal mail, the current issue may be picked up at the monthly meeting or will be mailed to you AFTER each meeting.

Membership benefits for joining the North Hills Genealogists include a discounted rate for the NHG Fall Conference in October and ten monthly newsletters, except in July and December. Other ways that your NHG membership dues work for you: monthly meeting expenses with a speaker stipend, donations of new genealogical books to Northland Library, post office box and web site maintenance, a societal membership in the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and postage and publicity expenses, such as mailing the newsletters. Special events such as the Annual Fall Conference are self-sufficient.

Please fill out the form below, and enclose a check for \$15.00 made out to: **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**. Turn in your form and payment at a meeting, or mail your membership renewal by August 1, 2011 to: North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090. For your convenience, you may charge your membership renewal on our website: <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>.

NAME (please print)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR RECEIVING YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BELOW:

By regular mail _____ **OR** By E-mail _____

HOME ADDRESS

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

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***PLEASE LIST SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING:**

*** QUERIES** (Members of the North Hills Genealogists may submit research-related queries for inclusion in a future newsletter.)



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Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 19 July 2011

DECIPHERING OLD HANDWRITING

Speaker: Michael Dabrishus

We welcome back Mr. Dabrishus, the Assistant University Librarian at Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh. He will discuss how to read the old handwriting in records.

Tuesday, 16 August 2011

GERMAN GENEALOGY FROM A TO Z

Speaker: Ed Heinlein

Are you ready for some German genealogy? Everything about German genealogy and YOU, from researching in Germany to corresponding with German repositories, will be discussed, evaluated, and recommended.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 21 June 2011

TALKING TO YOUR ANCESTORS' FAMILY, FRIENDS, & NEIGHBORS: CLUSTER GENEALOGY

Speaker: Deborah A. Abbott, Ph.D.

Dr. Abbott will present new techniques and strategies using non-direct family sources to locate your family members.