



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

PO Box 169 • Wexford, PA 15090 • [www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

## TIP TIME DISCUSSION

*Summarized by Mary Dzurichko*

At the February meeting, a Tip Time question got our creative juices flowing in order to help a fellow member. Here are the particulars: a great-uncle (grandfather's brother), emigrated to the U.S. from Austria in 1908 (per ship manifest); 1910 U.S. census shows him living in Cleveland, single; 1913 wife and one child immigrates to U.S.; 1917 WWI draft registration he asks for a deferment due to being married with 5 children, all living in Conway, Beaver County, PA; 1920 U.S. census only one son is found living with an uncle in Conway. It is thought that perhaps these are not all documents on the same family, however, the birth dates coincide.

Meeting attendees suggested the following possibilities:

1. The man died; wife remarried and has different name under which the other children are also enumerated.
2. The man died; wife took other children back to Austria to be with her family.
3. The man died; children were dispersed to orphanages.

For all of these cases, we suggested research be done to locate the church attended for a death record, then an obituary or a will might be found, which may give the names of the children (previously unknown). Cemetery records and/or gravestones may provide some answers, and death certificates can be requested once death dates are known. The Beaver County Genealogical and Historical Society (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs/>) has holdings of local records that may be of

assistance (obituary index, local newspaper, cemetery records, orphans court records, etc.).

After the meeting, several members continued brainstorming, with the following additional suggestions:

1. Check the 1930 U.S. census; perhaps the family was missed in the 1920 enumeration.
2. Perhaps both parents died from the flu epidemic of 1918, or even the whole family, except for the one son. More information on this plague that affected one fifth of the world's population can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/>. Church records, cemetery records or gravestones may help determine this.
3. Search veteran burial database maintained by the Veterans Administration at [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1). This would help determine whether or not he served in WWI, as well as when he died.

We hope our fellow member is successful in his research, and will let us know what worked. Sharing information and ideas is one of the biggest benefits of belonging to a society, and ours is very friendly, and willing to help. Please join us at an upcoming meeting.

<b>MARCH 2011</b>	<b>What's Inside</b>
Tip Time Discussion	61
President's Corner	62-63
Query	63
Rochester Church Records	63
Where Genealogists Meet	64-67
Bureau of Land Management	67
PA Land Records	68
Virginia Memory	68
Northern Ireland Photos	69
Northern Ireland Wills	69
Upcoming NHG Programs	70

## NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2010-2011

<b>President:</b>	Al Hartman
<b>Vice President:</b>	Rich Hayden
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Reed B. Powell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kathy White
<b>Past President:</b>	Dave Williams
<b>Membership:</b>	Ken Berner
<b>Publicity:</b>	Gary Schlemmer
<b>Book Marketing:</b>	Elissa Powell, CG
<b>Cemetery Chairs:</b>	Amy Prager Elissa Powell, CG
<b>Programs Chair:</b>	Mary Dzurichko
<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Amy Arner Sue Ennis

**For information:**

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

**Newsletter Ideas and Feedback:**

Editor@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. 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

Have you been watching the second season of the NBC show *Who Do You Think You Are?* Many people have been watching and are learning about genealogy, family history, and Ancestry.com. A good thing about the show is that people get interested in our favorite pastime. It is important to remember, however, that you need to always verify records on genealogy sites. Be sure what you find matches your ancestor.

I was reminded of this important fact recently. On Monday morning February 7<sup>th</sup>, a co-worker standing in line with me in the coffee room (before my first cup of coffee) asked me if I was the person who is doing the family history stuff. I said I was, and she asked how long I had been researching my ancestors. I told her about 15 years. She immediately responded by saying, "That is too long," and proceeded to tell me how she and her husband have it all figured out. They were planning to watch the show *Who Do You Think You Are?* and commented that if a group of actors can figure out how to do genealogy, then they can figure it out too.

Our conversation continued when my co-worker said that I would be further ahead to stop what I'm doing and watch the show, so then I could have all my research completed this year. I tried to explain how much time is spent to prepare each episode and about the panel of experts who assist the actors in finding their ancestors. (She did not seem to listen to that part.) I tried to invite her to our next meeting, but she said that watching the show was easier, because they could record it and watch each episode when they wanted. Later, I gave her some blank copies of family group sheets and a 5-generation chart from our last seminar. She just looked at them. She added that her husband was signing them up for Ancestry.com for three months, because between watching the show and Ancestry's little green leaves, they are set. I

**(continued on page 63)**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(continued from page 62)

tried to get her to understand that she needed to verify the hints that the little green leaves on Ancestry give you, but she emphasized that they knew all about that from the T.V. commercials.

Fast-forward three weeks, and once again before my morning coffee, my co-worker appears. She said, "The green leaves on Ancestry are broken." The leaves showed them some conflicting records about certain ancestors, which was confusing, since it seems they have been saving every record they find.

I again tried to explain how to take the hints and how you have to verify each record to see if the person in the record is your ancestor or not. If it is your ancestor, then you accept the hint; otherwise remove the hint. She felt that since they signed up, then Ancestry should know who their actual ancestors are. Remember, this is still before having my morning coffee. I talked to her about the importance of taking the time to check all records that you find. I also invited her and her husband to attend our next meeting. I told her that I have received a lot of great records from the Ancestry hints and also have found a few records that were someone else's ancestor, not mine. The T.V. show is a great resource for ideas and for seeing how things can be done in researching your ancestors. I told them it would be to attend NHG's March meeting, which would help them to get started and to understand what is involved in genealogical research. I hope to see them at either the March meeting or a future meeting.

I told her to fill out the generation chart and review the family group sheets. She asked if I would look over what they found. I said yes I would, but stressed to her to complete the papers I had given her so I could verify what they had found so far.

*Who Do You Think You Are?* is a great show. I enjoy seeing what is found and how they present

the facts. I use Ancestry.com for my own genealogy and family history and have had great success with it and other products and websites. Just remember to verify all records that you find with other records to be sure you have located your own ancestors and not mine.

Enjoy the remaining episodes of the show, and good luck researching!

~ Al

## QUERY

Searching for info on Daniel and Rebecca **HEISTER** who moved to Pine Twp. with three children circa 1831-1833. They lived in the part of Pine that later became Richland Twp. They had four children there and Rebecca died about 1845. The children were dispersed to other families and Daniel lived there until he died in 1875. Lived near the **CRUMMY** family and Daniel for a while lived on the **CRAWFORD** farm. The children married into the **SARVER**, **CRUMMY**, and **CALLEN** families. Looking for burial info for Rebecca and baptism records for the children. They were German Reformed. Contact Sharon Heister Presken at 251-653-9523 or sharonpresken@aol.com.

## ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, CHURCH RECORDS

The Rochester Genealogical Society has digitized records from several area churches. The records are from several denominations, including Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Methodist churches. The records are available through the society's web site <http://www.nyrgs.org/>. The available records include anniversary booklets, church directories, parish records, and photos. These are scanned images that have been put into PDF format. The society has also put an index to the records of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and Trinity Episcopal Church on their web site. The index is a searchable PDF.

## **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

### **Wednesday, 16 March 2011, 7:00 p.m. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The speaker for the March Beaver County Genealogical Society meeting is Mrs. Heather Metheny. She will present "Researching Beaver County Families." The meeting will be held at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive, Monaca, PA. Go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs> for more information, or call 724-847-9253.

### **Wednesday, 23 March 2011, 6:30 p.m. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB**

The next Cranberry Genealogy Club meeting will be on 23 March. Edna Scheidemantle will present a lecture on a topic to be determined. 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>.

### **Friday-Saturday, 25-26 March 2011 FAIRFAX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING CONFERENCE**

The Fairfax Genealogical Society will hold their annual conference 25-26 March at the Marriott Fair Oaks in Fairfax, Virginia. The conference has four themed tracks, including "Putting the Pieces Together," "Western European Research," "Probate Records," and "Basics for Beginners and Beyond." For more information and to register, please visit <http://fxgsconf2011.eventbrite.com/?ref=esfb>.

### **Thursday-Saturday, 31 March-2 April 2011 OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The Ohio Genealogical Society's 2011 conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio, 31

March through 2 April. It is the society's 50<sup>th</sup> annual conference. The venue will be the Hyatt on Capitol Square. The conference includes a variety of two-hour workshops on 31 March and one-hour sessions on 1 and 2 April. Lectures will cover ethnic research, Ohio research, record types, and using technology. Visit <http://www ogs org/conference2011/index php> for more details.

### **Thursday-Saturday, 31 March-2 April 2011 LANCASTER MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society's 2011 conference will be held at the DoubleTree Resort Lancaster/Willow Valley in Willow Valley, Pennsylvania. The conference includes two days of optional field trips and a day of lectures. The day of lectures has four tracks. Lecture topics include the German migration, Lancaster County Archives, land records, maps, and Pennsylvania tax records. The registration deadline for the field trips is 1 March 2011. The registration deadline for the lecture portion of the conference is 15 March. For more information, please visit [http://www lmhs org/Home/Events/History\\_Conference](http://www lmhs org/Home/Events/History_Conference).

### **Tuesday-Wednesday, 5-6 April 2011 ARCHIVES WITHOUT TEARS**

The Pennsylvania State Archives is teaming with organizations around the state to provide workshops for those who work with historical records. The Western Pennsylvania workshop will be held 5-6 April at the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation in Freedom, PA. The focus is on maintaining and providing access to historical records. Registrations are available for both days (\$25.00) or one day (\$15.00). The registration deadline is 30 March. For more information, contact Josh Stahlman at [jostahlman@state.pa.us](mailto:jostahlman@state.pa.us) or 717-772-3257.

**(continued on page 65)**

## **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

(continued from page 64)

### **Wednesday-Sunday, 6-10 April 2011 NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE**

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) *Exploring New Paths to Your Roots* will be held at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place and Springfield Marriott in Springfield, Massachusetts 6-10 April 2011. Special events at the conference include a Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, and an Ancestors Road Show. More information and the conference brochure are available through <http://www.nergc.org>.

### **Saturday, 9 April 2011, 2:00 p.m. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

The next meeting will be held on 9 April. Eugene G. Painter, Sr., will present "Lewis and Clark." The meeting will be held at the Citizens Library, 55 South College Street, Washington, PA. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more details, go to <http://www.genealogicalsocietyswpa.com>.

### **Tuesday, 12 April 2011, 6:30 p.m. BUTLER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The next BCGS meeting will be held on 12 April. The meeting will be held in the Lower Level Meeting Room in the Butler Area Public library, 218 North McKean Street, Butler. Go to <http://www.bcds.us> for more details.

### **Saturday, 16 April 2011 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING SEMINAR**

The WPGS Spring Seminar will be held from

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on 16 April at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. Rick Sayre, CG, will be the speaker. Topics include using Google Earth, Scots-Irish genealogy, and using government documents. The cost is \$45.00 for WPGS members and \$50.00 for non-members. The registration deadline is 11 April. For a registration form, please visit <http://www.wpgs.org>.

### **Wednesday-Thursday, 20-21 April 2011 NATIONAL ARCHIVES GENEALOGY FAIR**

The National Archives and Records Administration is holding a two day seminar on genealogy from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on 20-21 April. The event will be held at the National Archives facility in Washington, D.C. Attendees should enter the building through the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance. Speakers and exhibitors include National Archives staff, historians, and genealogical professionals. The fair provides information and guidance for experienced genealogical professionals and novices alike. Reservations are not required. The fair is free and open to the public. It is presented in partnership with the Foundation for the National Archives. More information is available at <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair>.

### **Saturday, 7 May 2011 CENTRE CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING SEMINAR**

The Centre County Genealogical Society is sponsoring an all-day seminar on 7 May. The event will be held at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, PA. The speaker will be John T. Humphrey, CG. His lectures will include "Pennsylvania's Land Records: an Indispensable Resource for Genealogists," "Pennsylvania's Early Church Registers," "Pennsylvania's Eighteenth-Century Economy," and "Researching Eighteenth-Century  
**(continued on page 66)**

## **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

(continued from page 65)

Germans.” More information is available at [http://www.centrecountygenealogy.org/Spring\\_2011\\_Seminar.html](http://www.centrecountygenealogy.org/Spring_2011_Seminar.html).

### **Wednesday-Saturday, 11-14 May 2011 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The National Genealogical Society's 2011 conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, 11-14 May. The venue will be the Embassy Suites Airport Convention Center in North Charleston. Each day will have ten tracks with four to six lectures each. Special events focusing on beginners and children are scheduled for Saturday. The conference has a blog at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>. The brochure and registration form are available at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info).

### **Friday-Sunday, 13-15 May 2011 ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The 2011 Ontario Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 13-15 May. The venue is the Hamilton Convention Centre. Lectures on German/Palatine, Eastern European, Irish, United Kingdom, and beginning research are scheduled. The early-bird registration deadline is 31 March. The conference will have an exhibit hall in addition to lectures. Please visit <http://www.ogs.on.ca> for more information.

### **Thursday-Saturday, 2-4 June 2011 PALATINES TO AMERICA CONFERENCE**

The 2011 Palatines to America national conference will be held at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh on 2-4 June. The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society is the local host. The speakers will include Jim Beidler,

John Humphrey, Michael Shaughnessy, and more. Watch <http://www.palam.org> for more details. This conference will be another great chance to experience excellent genealogy programs and speakers in our area!

### **Friday-Sunday, 10-12 June 2011 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JAMBOREE**

The Southern California Genealogical Society will hold their 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Jamboree 10-12 June. The event will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel in Burbank, California. More than 50 speakers will present over 130 lectures during the event. For more information, please visit the Jamboree blog at <http://genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com>.

### **Saturday, 18 June 2011, 9:00 A.M. ROOTS IN THE BOOT ITALIAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR**

The Pittsburgh POINT Chapter is sponsoring a day-long Italian genealogy seminar on 18 June. Ruth Merriman, an Italian expert at the Family History Library, will present four lectures. The seminar will be held at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The cost is \$25.00 for Pittsburgh POINT Chapter members and \$35.00 for non-members. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootsintheboot.org>.

### **Sunday-Friday, 19-24 June 2011 OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SUMMER WORKSHOP**

The annual OGS Summer Workshop will be held at the Ohio Genealogical Society Library in Bellville, Ohio, from 19-24 June. Lecture topics include FamilySearch.org, the Library of Congress, newspapers, the probate process, and using timelines. Registrations for the full week or individual days are accepted. For more (continued on page 67)

## **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

(continued from page 66)

information and a registration form, please visit <http://www.ogs.org>.

### **Saturday, 6 August 2011 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 2 August. *Discovering Your Ancestors Online* will feature Laura Prescott. The event will be held at the Main Library Auditorium in Akron. More details for this free event will be announced later.

### **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. The early bird registration deadline is 1 May 2011. 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>.

### **Saturday, 22 October 2011 NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS FALL CONFERENCE**

NHG will hold our fourth annual conference on 22 October. Dr. Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, will be our speaker. We will be using a new venue, the Ingomar United Methodist Church. More details will be announced soon.

### **RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Searching land records can produce valuable information to add to your family history. A convenient place to begin might be on the Official Federal Land Records Site, found at <http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/>. General record categories include Land Patents, Survey Plats and Field Notes, and Land Status Records.

From the home page, click first on the Reference Center link, found in the middle of the green banner. Next, scroll down to Search Tips, and then click on General Overview. In a matter of a few minutes, you will discover that there are three ways to search the Land Management site: by Identifier, Location, and Type of Document.

For the purposes of most genealogists, it is quickest to begin to search by Location. You can literally type in the name of the state where you ancestors resided along with one more piece of information such as township, county, or town. From there, you will zoom in on maps with the potential to see the land that was owned by your ancestor, as well as information about neighboring landowners.

Finally, if your family is from a Public Lands State, such as Ohio, you can search Land Patents and end up with digitized images to view or to print.

## PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS

By Amy E. K. Arner, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

Pennsylvania is a state land state, meaning that all the land was originally owned by the Commonwealth. There was a multi-step process to transfer land from the state to an individual that generated five types of records:

Application for a Warrant – a person files a request for a warrant to be issued for a piece of land.

Warrant – a document authorizing a survey is issued.

Survey – a drawing of the tract of land, including the exact acreage.

Return of Survey – a document giving the legal land description in metes and bounds.

Patent – a document that transfers ownership from the state to an individual.

The original records still exist and are held by the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. The Archives has microfilm copies for researchers to use. The Archives also has scanned and put some of the indexes and records on their web site, [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state\\_archives/2887](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_archives/2887). The main page has a link Land Records. Microfilm copies are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and through the Family History Center system.

The records will not necessarily provide relationships, however they are useful for putting an ancestor into historical context. It is also possible to find a person's residence in some of the records. Be aware that one person may start the purchase process and someone else may finish the process. Some people squatted without acquiring title to land. Other people were land speculators, obtaining warrants or patents for large tracts and later subdividing the land, but never living on the land.

These records only cover transfers of land from

the state to individuals. For land sales between individuals, consult the deed books and indexes held by each county's Recorder of Deeds. Some Recorders of Deeds have put their indexes and records online.

There are two good resources that explain how individuals obtained land from the state and provide details on the records. One is the Pennsylvania State Archives web site (see the URL above). The other is *Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research* by Donna Bingham Munger. Northland Public Library and several other libraries in Allegheny County have copies of the book.

## VIRGINIA MEMORY WEB SITE OFFERS USEFUL RESOURCES

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia State Archives have combined efforts to increase their online presence through the Virginia Memory web site. This site was recently re-launched and is found at: <http://www.virginiamemory.com/>.

Besides sections titled *What's New?* and *This Day in Virginia History*, the most interesting link is *Digital Collections*. According to one of the directors, "This Library maintains vast and varied collections of print materials, manuscripts, archival records, newspapers, photographs and ephemera, maps and atlases, rare books, and fine art that tell the history of the commonwealth and its people." All of these items can be accessed for free from the *Digital Collections* link.

The items in the Virginia Memory digital archives is searchable by topic and sub-topic or alphabetically. Most Virginia newspapers are digitized on the site and searchable as well.

Other links at Virginia Memory include *Exhibitions*, *Reading Room*, and *Online Classroom*. A visit to <http://www.virginiamemory.com/> is definitely worth it for any genealogist with Virginia ancestors.

# PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PRONI) MAKES PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON FLICKR

*Press Release (Partial)*      **1 December 2010**

**Belfast, Ireland** - PRONI is the first Northern Ireland heritage institution to make such collections available on Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)). Over fifty years of wedding and family portraits, taken between 1900 and 1952, have been brought back to life and made available online, using the photo-sharing website

Speaking today about the new resource, Aileen McClintock, Director of PRONI said: "This is a tremendous resource for anybody interested in local history, genealogy, and even the changing fashions in bridal wear. These photographs are particularly culturally rich for those who have family connections in County Armagh and South Down and also in County Monaghan in the Irish Republic."

The photos are being transferred from fragile glass plate negatives which were commonly used by photographers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, prior to the advent of photographic film.

To date around 200 digital images have been made available, with more being added over the coming weeks until all 1,530 images are posted on the site. Visitors to the website will be able to browse through the images alphabetically, by family surname.

The online images are the product of a year-long project undertaken by PRONI to arrange, list, re-box, and digitise the original glass plate negatives. This will enhance the collection of key resources which PRONI has already made available online, including street directories and wills indexes.

PRONI's web site is <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

## PRONI MAKES IRISH WILLS AVAILABLE ONLINE

*Press Release (Partial)*      **29 November 2010**

**Belfast, Ireland** - This is the culmination of a project by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) to index and digitise early wills from the three District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast, and Londonderry between the years 1858 and 1900.

Speaking today about the Wills application, Culture Minister Nelson McCausland said: "One of PRONI's key goals is to digitise key cultural resources and make them easily available to a worldwide audience. This free of charge application will therefore be of enormous assistance to anyone trying to trace their genealogical roots and will be of particular help to those wanting to begin their research from the comfort of their own home."

"In recent years there has been a huge increase in people researching their family history and trends have shown that a large number of these people are from outside the UK. I am sure this new application will be of particular interest to this international audience."

Wills are one of the most used archival sources by both family historians and solicitors. The images have been linked to an existing searchable index which allows researchers to view details such as name, dates, and the abstracts taken from the original entries.

Future digitisation plans include the addition of further pre-1858 will indexes to the PRONI Name Search facility. These indexes from Northern Ireland dioceses, will list the names of people who had wills probated as early as the seventeenth century – pushing the possibility of family and local history research further back in time. The wills are available at [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/will\\_calendars.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm)



P.O. Box 169  
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Tuesday, 19 April 2011**  
**RESEARCHING PITTSBURGH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHIVES**

*Speaker: Kenneth White*

Kenneth White, Archivist at the Archives and Records Center for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, will address what records are available, how to access records, and how to find records from closed churches.

**Tuesday, 17 May 2011**  
**ZOOM LENS GENEALOGY**

*Speaker: Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor*

Sue Ennis will highlight techniques, which can be used to review your family data in order to glean new information from previous findings. She will demonstrate how taking a closer look at your genealogical findings – as if through a zoom lens – can break down stubborn brick walls in your research.

### **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 15 March 2011** **GENEALOGY A TO Z—A THREE HOUR WORKSHOP**

*Speaker: Elissa Scalise Powell, CG*

This special event will be divided into two parts. Part 1 begins at 5:30 P.M. and will cover genealogy basics. Part 2 begins at 7:00 P.M. And will cover census records in detail, along with how to use the census to move into other records. Please join us for all or part of this workshop!