



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH'S ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER

By Mary Dzurichko, NHG Program Chair

The April 19 meeting featured an informative presentation by Kenneth White, Archivist at the Roman Catholic Diocesan archives, located in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Diocese is comprised of the Pennsylvania counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence, and Washington. Prior to 1808, it was part of the Greensburg Diocese, and any records up to that time should be obtained from Greensburg. Until 1853, counties north of Butler and Lawrence were served by circuit-riding priests, and these records are probably located in the Erie diocese, if they exist.

The Oakland Archives has become the central repository for most old sacramental records from the churches in the Diocese, although some may still be at the individual churches if the record books are still in use. Information from these records may be obtained for all records over 100 years old; those 70 to 100 years must have a proof of death included with the request (proof can be a death certificate, obituary, or other reasonable proof); records up to 70 years old are closed to all except the individual to whom the record belongs, due to privacy policies. Death records of any age are available to all.

Requests for information must be made in writing and include: your name and contact information; the name of the person being researched; their parents' names, if available, for baptism and marriage records; the address

where they lived, such as town, township, borough, or street address; list the records being requested; nationality of person being researched, which may help to locate the correct church; the approximate date or date range the event would have occurred; the parish name, if known; and how to send you the information, via email or the postal service. Be certain that all information is legible.

Research is performed by the Archives personnel, as the original records are not open to the public. You will be provided with a complete transcript of any record that is found. The fee for research is \$15.00 per hour. Included with your request should be a check for \$15.00, along with a limit of how many hours they should expend on your research. For instance, if you are willing to spend up to \$45.00 for this information, write down that you want them to research up to 3 hours. They will charge you only for how long it took them, up to 3 hours. If it's an hour, then the original \$15 will cover it. If it's more than that, they will bill you for the additional amount. This is the procedure even if you are requesting information about more than one person in the same request form.

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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 have been searching for information on my great-great grandmother, Maria Knoll, born July 1832, and her family. From census records I know her father's name was Christian Knoll, and he was born about 1799. When Maria immigrated to the United States in 1854, her younger brother came with her. Jacob Knoll was born June 1838.

I searched in a number of web sites and documents and had not found anything other than the census records and Württemberg emigration records for Maria. Then one day recently I was re-checking FamilySearch.org and hit the jackpot.

I knew Maria (Anna Maria) emigrated from Wurttemberg, so when I found an Anna Maria from Pappelau, Württemberg, Germany, I got excited. I was looking at the "Germany Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898" and I also looked at the "Germany Marriages, 1558-1929." I found Maria's father, Christian and his exact birth date of 9 Feb 1799 not the "about 1799" I had. I also found her mother Anna Maria Sigler and her birth date. From searching for Maria's parents I found their marriage information and their parents, Maria's grandparents.

I did another search and this time put Maria's parents into the search area, removed Maria's name, leaving just her last name, and gave the birth range + or - 20 years from 1832. From this search I was looking for any of Maria's siblings, and I found 4 of them and their information. To verify the find, you may be thinking that I should have found the younger brother that immigrated with her in 1854, and I did.

Sadly I found an older brother and younger sister who both died less than a year after they were born. I also found a younger sister who must have stayed in Germany, since I did not find any immigration records for her. I now have a smaller area in Württemberg to search.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page 82)

I found in my German ancestors' book that Pappelau is a district in Württemberg. Finding this information brought me one step closer to the location in Germany from where some of my ancestors came. Pappelau, Württemberg, Germany will need some additional attention in future searches.

I did try the same trick searching for Christian's siblings using Maria's grandparents names in the search but did not come up with any possible connections that I could prove—yet. I am still searching. For me, this shows that new records are being loaded onto FamilySearch.org all the time. Maybe your ancestor's record is there now or will be there soon. Never give up, and good luck with your research.

~ Al

CATHOLIC DIOCESE ARCHIVES (continued from page 81)

The average response time is approximately four weeks but may be longer if they are busier. Records available include baptism, marriage, and death, which are the most useful to genealogists. Also available are first communion and confirmation records, however they may only be a list of names. Be advised that there was no standardization in the old records, so some churches recorded the minimum information, while others give details such as place of birth, cause of death, witnesses names, etc. Please keep in mind that not all records survived various floods, fires, or the ravages of time.

Other records kept at the Archives include parish anniversary books and other publications, photographs, and orphanage records. These are open to the public and can be viewed at their research library. The Archives and Records Center is located in the Cardinal Dearden

Center, 4721 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213; telephone 412-456-3158; fax 412-621-6237; archives@diopitt.org; and <http://www.diopitt.org/archives/arcform.htm>, which includes a research request form.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS **FALL CONFERENCE**

NHG will hold our fourth annual conference on Saturday, 22 October 2011. We will be using a new venue, the Ingomar United Methodist Church. Dr. Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, will be our speaker. 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." The registration brochure is available on our web site and at meetings.

QUERY

Searching for information on Earl William **PRITCHARD**, son of William H. Pritchard. Earl was born 27 August 1884 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Annapolis in 1907. When he died in 1943, Earl's widow was living at 1012 North Negley Avenue. Contact Sue Hammersmark at 4520 Palisades Park, Billings, Montana 59106 or shammersmark@bresnan.net

FINDING FEMALES

In honor of Mother's Day, here are some links to articles that might help you learn more about your female ancestors:

Married to an Alien
<http://www.rootdig.com/adn/4944.htm>

Finding Female Ancestors
http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/50_donna.html?cj=1&o_xid=0001029688&o_lid=0001029688

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 18 May 2011, 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORY CENTER

The speaker for the May Beaver County Genealogy & History Center meeting is Jack Goddard, an historical writer. He will present "The Underground Railroad." The meeting will be held at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive, Monaca, PA. For more information, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs> or call 724-847-9253.

Wednesday, 25 May 2011, 7:00 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

The next Cranberry Genealogy Club meeting will be on 25 May. The group will be touring Preservation Technologies in Cranberry Township. Meet at the Preservation Technologies office, 111 Thompson Park Drive. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about the club, please visit <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

Tuesday, 14 June 2011, 6:30 P.M. BUTLER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next BCGS meeting will be held on 14 June. Rhea Klenovich will present "Who Were the Huguenots?" 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.bcgs.us> for more details.

Monday, 20 June 2011, 7:00 P.M. TARENTUM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next TGS meeting will be held on 20 June. 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.

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. Tours and special events are scheduled for Thursday, 2 June. Lectures are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, 3 and 4 June. The conference will have an exhibitor hall. Please visit <http://www.palam.org> for more details.

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

The Southern California Genealogical Society will hold their 42nd 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
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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET
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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 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. 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>. Additional information is available on the FGS conference blog at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org>.

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>.

2011-2012 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

PRESIDENT

Krisanne Edwards is a reservoir engineer, who moved to Pittsburgh to work on the Marcellus Shale. Since discovering the NHG at the Open House last year, she has been an active participant, including serving on the committee coordinating the fourth annual conference. Krisanne has been interested in genealogy since a sixth grade school project and she has made great strides researching her Pennsylvania ancestors since joining NHG. Having encountered many brick walls along the way, she is grateful for all that she has learned from everyone at NHG.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Rich Hayden is a research chemist by vocation and a family historian by avocation. He is currently the NHG vice-president. He holds over 30 scientific patents and has written for scientific journals as well as several genealogical periodicals, including *The Genealogist* and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Married with one son, he became “addicted” to family history research around the year 1985 after asking his maternal grandfather what he knew about his roots. He credits the search since then, in part, with an unyielding desire to know the truth in all things. If, as Santayana once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” then each person’s study of their roots becomes vitally important to not only their own well-being, but that of his posterity as well. More than a mere hobby, it can be a rich legacy well worth leaving.

SECRETARY

Kathy White, the current NHG secretary, lives in Ross Township with her husband Dennis. They have three children. Kathy is enjoying her NHG membership and has served as the secretary for two years. She became active with genealogy while assisting her mother with family research in 1992. She is a member of The Morse Society and traces her Morse ancestors back to 1635 in New England. She is currently doing research in Crawford and Venango Counties. Kathy works for the Allegheny County Health Department as a Public Health Nutritionist.

TREASURER

Reed B. Powell is the current and longtime NHG treasurer. He has worked in the computer industry since the early 1970s and now works for Impaq, an Internet marketing company in Green Tree, where he develops database applications. Reed is the web master for the North Hills Genealogists, and he also lectures locally and nationally on the use of technology in genealogical research.

BALLOT FOR THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

Ballot is due on or before 30 June 2011. It may be turned in at a NHG meeting or mailed.
Send your completed ballot to: *North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090.*

President

Krisanne Edwards _____

_____ (write-in)

Secretary

Kathy White _____

_____ (write-in)

Vice-President

Rich Hayden _____

_____ (write-in)

Treasurer

Reed Powell _____

_____ (write-in)

6. What geographic areas are you researching? If located in PA, list the county; if outside of PA, list the state or country: _____

7. Please check the following repositories where you have done on-site research:
- Family History Library (Salt Lake City)
 - National Archives (any branch)
 - Courthouse
 - Local library
 - Genealogy/Historical Library (e.g. Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Dept., Heinz History Center)
 - Family History Center (local branch)
 - State Archives
 - Church
 - State library

8. Please check the following websites you use and/or would like to learn more about:

	<u>Use</u>	<u>Learn More</u>		<u>Use</u>	<u>Learn More</u>
Ancestry.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FamilySearch.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Footnote.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	USGenWeb.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RootsWeb.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DAR.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SteveMorse.org	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HeritageQuest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archives.gov (NARA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What record types do you need to learn about to break through your brick walls?

10. Are you interested in field trips sponsored by NHG to any of the following repositories?

Note: Trips to courthouses will have to be on weekdays and most historical societies have an entrance fee.

- Allegheny County Record Offices
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- Heinz History Center Library
- Westmoreland County Courthouse
- Baltzer Meyer Historical Society
- Butler Area Public Library
- Armstrong County Courthouse
- Mildred Lankerd Thomas Genealogical Library (Armstrong County)
- Harrisburg, PA - State Library & Archives
- Pitt's Archives Service Center
- Washington, D.C. - NARA, LOC, DAR
- Butler County Courthouse
- Westmoreland County Historical Society
- New Castle Public Library
- Citizens Library (Washington, PA)
- Beaver County Genealogy and History Center
- Other _____

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please let us know what we can do to help you in your research or make NHG a better organization. (Use another sheet of paper, if needed)

REGISTRATION FOR 2012 SLIG OPENS 4 JUNE 2011

Press Release (Partial) 12 February 2011

Salt Lake City, Utah - After much deliberation, the Utah Genealogical Association has made arrangements for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) to adjoin RootsTech next year. The new dates for SLIG 2012 are 23-27 January 2012; the conference will again be held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. Registration for SLIG 2012 will open on 4 June 2011 at www.ugagenealogy.org. Keep in mind that some classes fill up quickly.

"It just made sense for us to connect ourselves to RootsTech in this way," said Adele Marcum, Director of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. "We hope this union of scheduling will offer genealogists the best educational experience: first at Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and then at RootsTech."

The courses for the 2012 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy include:

- **American Research and Records: Focus on Families** with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA
- **Welsh Research** with Darris Williams, AG
- **Scandinavian Research** with Geoffrey Morris, AG
- **Genealogy Software and Research Tools** with George Morgan
- **Advanced Research Tools: Land Records** with Rick Sayre, CG and Pam Sayre, CG, CGL
- **Principles of Effective Genealogy Librarianship** with Drew Smith, MLS
- **Beyond the Library: Using Original Source Repositories** with John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., FUGA
- **Advanced Methodology** with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS
- **Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis Practicum** with Thomas W. Jones and others
- **NEHGS: Advanced New England Research** with D. Joshua Taylor
- **Midwest Research** with Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AG, FUGA
- **Problem Solving** with Judith Hansen, MLS, AG

WAR OF 1812 PENSIONS

Press Release (Partial) 12 April 2011

Lindon, Utah – iArchives today announced a collaboration with the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) to digitize 180,000 pension applications, or an estimated 7.2 million pages, of War of 1812 Pension Applications and Bounty Land Warrants. The collection will be available on iArchives' military records web site, Footnote.com.

The multi-year project will consist of scanning the pension files at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and creating a searchable index to the digital images. FGS has targeted the War of 1812 Pension Applications as a high priority project based on the value of the content for genealogists as well as the importance of preserving the fragile records.

With the burden of proof on the applicant to qualify for a pension, those applying proved participation in the war by including dozens of vividly descriptive pages. Details recorded include military battle stories, service dates, mentions of fellow soldiers, family relations, marriages, widows' maiden names and many other clues significant to researchers. The breadth of information allows the pension files to tell the richest story of that time period.

"Our users have been asking for the War of 1812 pension records for some time. We are pleased to make these records available for free on Footnote.com as a result of FGS fund-raising efforts to subsidize the production cost." said Brian Hansen, General Manager at Footnote.com.

FGS is proud to be leading the national fund-raising to support this project and is actively seeking donations. iArchives is providing a dollar-for-dollar match of each donation through a provision of services. To learn more and contribute to the project, visit www.fgs.org/1812.



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

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.

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.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 17 May 2011

ZOOM LENS GENEALOGY

Speaker: Susan 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.