



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH NHG

Summer has arrived for the North Hills Genealogists! Please make a note to remember that there is no newsletter during the month of July. Our new membership year begins August 1, however all current members will receive the August newsletter as a courtesy, and to invite you to renew your NHG membership for 2012-13. Remember we have a program change for July in order to take advantage of a new, local opportunity.

NHG is sponsoring a special genealogical lecture in July at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP). Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, and Richard G. Sayre, CG, will present a two-hour session entitled "Google Earth for Genealogists." Attendees will learn to mark and map the sites of historical buildings, cemeteries, or other features that no longer exist. Note that this program will be held on **24 July 2012 at 6:30 P.M.** It will be held at **La Roche College in room SC103.** **This special event will take the place of NHG's regular July meeting. Note the change of date from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday for July.** The lecture is free, however seating will be limited.

Please return your ballot for the officer elections to anyone on the NHG Board no later than 30 June. We are pleased to offer a slate of enthusiastic and knowledgeable members to lead our organization in the coming year.

Finally, now is the perfect time to plan for our Fall Conference in October. Mark your calendars for October 20th and send in your

registration form. There's no need to wait for the early-bird deadline! You can also renew your membership when you register for the Fall Conference.

IRISH HANDOUT

Anyone wishing to receive a PDF of the handout from May's meeting "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors," including active URLs, notes and sample forms, can e-mail the speaker Rebecca Kichta Miller at shake_the_tree@hotmail.com. Also, if you're interested in volunteering a few hours at the Pittsburgh Irish Festival on Sept. 8, 9, or 10, 2012, and getting free admission, e-mail Rebecca at the same address.

NECROLOGY

NHG member Frank Lutinski passed away June 1st. Our sympathy goes out to his family and friends, especially his wife Jane. They often attended NHG meetings together.

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WHO WE ARE - NHG

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 members of the North Hills Genealogists organization.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With summer almost here, this time of year brings an opportunity for a genealogy research trip. Three years ago, Dave Williams wrote about his research trip to the Isle of Man in this column. While I'm not ready for something of that magnitude, I did manage a day-long research trip to Winona, Minnesota, last summer with my parents. Many genealogy handbooks recommend that you prepare by deciding what you want to learn, organizing your records accordingly, identifying resources available at your destination, and then plotting a strategy to get the most out of the on-site opportunity.

For my trip to Winona, I wanted to learn about the early lives of my great-grandparents who grew up and married there. In addition to mining local data resources that I can't access from Pittsburgh, I wanted to visit the family church and cemetery, and photograph places where they lived and worked.

I started by getting my research up to date for that branch and scrutinizing the information for further insight. Then I focused on identifying all possible information available online or through the local Family History Center. Next I focused on determining where the records were in Winona. With some online searching, I learned that the local historical society acted as a genealogical society and archive. And all city and county records were stored there too, along with newspaper archives. My data mining was going to be focused!

Then I called ahead and asked for help. I asked about hours and whether an appointment was needed—the trip details were finalized accordingly. My dad recently had knee surgery, so I asked about parking and accessibility. I also asked if there were any fees or a suggested donation. The historical society offered reduced costs for members, so I asked about membership. I also asked if there was any research that I could start beforehand. The
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page 92)

church and cemetery preferred that I email my records request since records weren't kept on-site.

For the big day, I preferred starting at the historical society, in case we learned of somewhere else to visit. The cemeteries had longer hours, so I planned those for later in the day—the photos were only constrained by daylight. With that, I plotted the most efficient route with an online mapping tool.

To facilitate research at the historical society, I brought my research notes and copies of relevant records in addition to my laptop. The only thing I wished for was more scratch paper to mark pages in phone directories for copying, a task I assigned to my parents. At the end of the day, my mom was pretty excited about all that we discovered. But she explained that she much prefers me doing the research and sharing the results afterward!

Last month, Amy Arner and Elissa Powell led trips to the City-County Building and County Office Building on May 16th and 18th with twelve genealogy enthusiasts, all eager for their own research day trip. I hope it was a productive day for all. Thanks to everyone who participated!

~ Krisanne

HISTORIC IMAGES OF NEW YORK CITY DIGITIZED ONLINE

Excerpted from a press release.

The New York City (NYC) Municipal Archives has announced that they now have over 870,000 images online. The images are available at the NYC Department of Records web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/gallery/home.shtml>.

According to the New York City Municipal Archives Online Gallery, “This ever-expanding gallery is your entry point into the vast visual holdings of the Archives. The Online Gallery provides free and open research access to over 800,000 items digitized from the Municipal Archives’ collections, including photographs, maps, motion pictures, and audio recordings. The holdings are arranged by collection; or you may search “All Collections” by keyword or any of the advanced search criteria.”

Some of the collections include Parks and Recreation; Fire Department New York; Maps and Atlases; Ports and Terminals; Prints, Posters, and Drawings; and the Federal Writers Project. When you select a collection, there will be a description of what's in the collection and it will tell you how many images the collection contains.

The web site also states “Patrons may order prints or digital files, and license images or film clips for commercial use. Please see the [Order Page](#) for further details about ordering prints or licensing the materials. To order prints directly from the gallery click on the “Buy Print” button in the image detail view to launch the shopping cart. If you cannot satisfy your research needs using the online gallery and/or have other research questions, [visit](#) the Municipal Archives, or please [Contact Us](#).

“Some of the images in the Online Gallery may be subject to third-party rights such as copyright and/or rights of privacy/publicity. Any person who believes that inclusion of an item on this site violates his or her exclusive rights should notify us under the [DMCA](#). Before using any images from this site, please review our [Terms and Conditions](#).”

Some of the images are amazing for the historic moments as well as for the clarity of the images. The web site is accessible for free and is searchable. Anyone with ancestors or immigrants in New York City will be interested in this unique collection of items.

NGS CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

By Dave and Bobby Egelston, NHG Members

Are you trying to identify someone in an old photo and have no idea of the date of the photo? Did your ancestor arrive in a UFO and disappear into the Witness Protection Program? Then attending a national genealogical conference is for **you**.

The recent National Genealogical Society Conference, *The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier*, offered ancestor seekers an opportunity to attend up to five classes per day for four days. Every day there were ten tracks: some stayed the same throughout the conference, such as Methodology and Research, while others changed each day, from German Research to Migration to Photos to Researching in Ohio, etc. Attending this conference was a wonderful opportunity to learn new or refresh old research skills; to keep up to date on the latest issues in genealogy, including technology; and to hear about various approaches to dealing with “brick walls.”

The exhibits and vendors area included book sellers, genealogical societies, demonstrations, and free tutorials for various products. All the speakers were there to help genealogists grow their family tree. The themes that were repeated this year were to be sure you understand the problem when you hit a brick wall and be willing to expand your research to other people and other locations.

Several members of NHG were among about 2000 people who attended the NGS national conference in Cincinnati. Our own Elissa Scalise Powell gave two different presentations. It was interesting to meet people from across the United States who share an interest in genealogy, specifically people whose eyes do not instantly glaze over when you start talking about your great-great-great-grandfather.

Don't get so focused on your assumptions that you create your own brick wall. Conferences help you find paths to your past.

Editors' Note: There are two national (and many regional) genealogical conferences each year. The next national conference within easy driving distance of Pittsburgh will be held in 2013. It will be the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference, which will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 21-24 August 2013. Watch the Where Genealogists Meet section of this newsletter next year for details!

CRANBERRY FHC HAS NEW HOURS

The Cranberry Family History Center has new hours, effective immediately. The new hours are Thursdays from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. There are no longer Wednesday evening hours. Please consider taking advantage of the resources available at the center!

WON'T YOU LIKE US, PLEASE?

Don't miss out on the latest happenings in the world of genealogy and the North Hills Genealogists. If you had liked us on Facebook, you would have seen the newest celebrities from our society as well as read about how fantastic our indexers have been. NHG has a presence on Facebook and Twitter, two of the most popular social media sites. These sites are some of the best ways to see current news. We will post messages relevant to research in addition to keeping you current with NHG events. Facebook fans can access our page by searching for North Hills Genealogists or using <http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Hills-Genealogists/246328335404138>. Our address on Twitter is @NHGenealogists. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Carole Ashbridge at nhg@northhillsgenealogists.org.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 20 June 2012, 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORY CENTER

The speaker for the next Beaver County Genealogy & History Center meeting is Shelli Nye, director of the Cranberry Family History Center. She will present "What's New at FamilySearch.org?" The meeting will be held at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive, Monaca, PA. For more information, call 724-847-9253 or go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs>.

Wednesday, 27 June 2012, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

The next Cranberry Genealogy Club meeting will be June 27th. The program is 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, please visit <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

Tuesday, 10 July 2012, 6:30 P.M. BUTLER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next BCGS meeting will be held on June 10th. The program is to be determined. It will be held in the Butler Library's Lower Level Meeting Room. The library's address is 218 North McKean Street, Butler. Go to <http://www.bcgs.us> for more details.

Saturday, 30 June 2012, 10:00 A.M. AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) of Pittsburgh will host an all-day event on Saturday, June 30th. It will feature

Tony Burroughs as the speaker. His lectures will include "The Nature of Genealogy," "Navigating the National Archives," and "Researching Wills, Probates, and Estates." The event will be held at the Homewood Library Auditorium in Pittsburgh. The registration deadline is June 22nd. The fee is \$30 for AAHGS members and \$35 for non-members. The fee does include lunch.

14-15 July 2012 WESTMORELAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Westmoreland County Historical Society will host a Colonial Court on July 14th and 15th. Historic court cases, based on actual cases heard between 1773 and 1786, will be recreated at 2:00 P.M. each day. The event will be held at their Hanna's Town facility, which is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The address is 809 Forbes Trail Road, Greensburg. Attendees can also wander through several historic buildings, including a tavern, a for from the Revolutionary War era, and three late 18th century log homes. The admission fee is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students, seniors, and AAA members. For more information, please visit <http://www.starofthewest.org>.

20-21 July 2012 MIDWESTERN ROOTS

The Midwestern Roots 2012 conference will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott East. The event is sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society. Featured speakers include Dick Eastman, Shamele Jordan, J. Mark Lowe, CG, Thomas MacEntee, Daniel S. Poffenberger, Juliana Smith, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, D. Joshua Taylor, Patricia Van Skaik, and Curt B. Witcher. For more information and a registration form, please visit <http://www.indianahistory.org/our-services/family-history/midwesternroots/midwestern-roots>.

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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET
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22-27 July 2012
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

The inaugural Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) will be held 22-27 July at La Roche College. Three courses still have slots available: German Genealogical Research, Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper, and Beneath the Home Page: Problem Solving with Online Repositories. GRIP will also have free evening classes on July 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th. Limited seating is available for the evening classes. For more information, please visit <http://www.gripitt.org>.

Saturday, 11 August 2012, 9:30 A.M.
SUMMIT COUNTY CHAPTER OF
THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

The Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) and the Special Collection Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library are sponsoring a free seminar on August 11th. The theme is *Discovering Your Civil War Ancestors*. Amy Johnson Crow, CG, and re-enactor John P. Gurnich will be the featured speakers. The event will be held at the Akron-Summit County Public Library in Akron, Ohio. More information will be available soon at <http://www.summitogs.org>.

Wednesday-Saturday, 29 August-1
September 2012
FEDERATION OF
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CONFERENCE

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their annual conference 29 August through 1 September. The theme for this year's conference is *Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers*

in the Old Southwest. The event will be held at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference will feature eight tracks of lectures each day. In addition to one-hour lectures, eight two-hour workshops will be offered for an additional fee. The early bird registration deadline is July 1st. The conference will feature an exhibit hall. For more information and a registration form, please visit <http://www.fgs.org>.

Saturday, 6 October 2012, 9:00 A.M.
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Ohio Genealogical Society's (OGS) Fall Seminar will feature Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA. It will be held October 6th at the OGS Library in Bellville, Ohio. Lowe's lectures will include "My Ancestor the Farmer," "Finding Black Roots in a White World," "Out on a Limb, Trapped by Bad Research," and "Learn When to Keep Your Mouth Shut!" More information is available at <http://www.ogs.org/fallseminar2012.php>.

Saturday, 13 October 2012, 8:30 A.M.
MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC
SOCIETY

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society will hold an all-day program on October 13th. The theme is *Solving Research Problems with an Interesting Twist*. The event will be held at the Best Western Hotel in Westminster, Maryland. The lectures will include "Our Ancestors are Hiding on the World Wide Web," "It's Never Too Late," and "Unscrambling Genealogical Puzzles." The early bird registration deadline is October 1st. For more information, please visit <http://magsgen.com>.

Saturday, 20 October 2012, 8:00 A.M.
NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
FALL CONFERENCE

NHG will hold our fifth annual conference on (continued on page 97)

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

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Saturday, 20 October 2012. We will be using a new venue, the Wildwood Golf Club, 2195 Sample Road, Allison Park. D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, will be our speaker. He will present four lectures: "Discovering USGenWeb," "Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the U.S. between 1780 and 1830," "Mapping Your Success: Employing Maps for Genealogical Research," and "Putting It Together: A Case Study."

The early bird registration deadline is 18 September. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. We will have door prizes. The registration brochure is available at meetings and on our web site, <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>.

AFFRAID I FOUND...AND UNCLES NAZARETH AND ADALDO, TOO!

By Ken Berner, NHG Membership Chair

Almost from the time I started working on my family history, about eight years ago, I was able to gather what I called the "low-hanging fruit" on the tree. The Etna and Sharpsburg Berners, on my father's side, weren't too hard to find. I had as a guide a turn-of-the-20th-century biographical sketch of the family that one of my cousins had found in the library some years earlier. That commercial profile has given me a lot of material to work on.

But Mom's Italian-immigrant family, which I believed arrived in the Monongahela River mill town of Monessen, Westmoreland County, sometime in the first decade of the 20th century, was almost invisible. I knew they existed, because I spent a lot of time playing with my cousins and visiting Grandma. But where were the historical records about them upon which genealogists rely?

Like other researchers in similar situations, I wondered if this part of the family had just dropped in from outer space and was eluding immigration officials, or, Heaven forbid, the police.

The little I had been able to find included my grandfather's World War II "Old Man's Draft" Registration Card. I barely remember Alfredo Morigi because he died in an accident before I even started school. His physical description on the card seemed to reinforce that faint picture of him in the back of my mind, even though I have a much earlier family portrait of him. I also found my Uncle John's (Alfredo's son) World War II Draft Registration Card. That really started my questions because his card said he was born in Gary, Indiana, in 1914. What? Where did that come from? These people always lived in Monessen, I thought. But for years I could find nothing more. Immigration records, passenger lists, censuses. Nothing.

Then the 1940 census was released. Using guidelines on how to locate names in this new unindexed record, I found the Morigi family in the very house I knew, living with their married daughter's family. A special column in that census also told me they lived in the same place in 1935. Missing was their first-born son, who I understood "died young."

The guidelines for finding 1940 Enumeration Districts, if you have a street name and a cross-street, also helped me find a probable location in the 1930 census. Since I already knew I couldn't find the family by a surname search in 1930, I tried searching likely enumeration districts... page by page by page. That process eventually yielded the *Mongi's*, which also delivered a previously-unknown address, an immigration year of 1913, and the fact that their eldest son, born in Italy about 1910, was still alive and working in a tin mill, probably the same one in which his father was listed as working. Great new-to-me-info.

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AFFRAID I FOUND **(continued from page 97)**

So, how else could that name be misspelled? Not having found it necessary to do wild-card searches before, I thought this might be the time. Entering M*gi to account for any number of missing letters between M and G, up popped Granddad *Marigi's* World War I Draft Card. It confirmed the original spelling of my grandmother's given and maiden names, which I had not previously seen on an official U.S. document. It also gave me another previously-unknown street address.

Now I was ready to tackle the 1920 U.S. census. Visiting Google Maps to locate the 1930 address, I came up with cross-streets to help define a 1920 Enumeration District. So, it was back to the page-by-page street-name search to find Mom's family.

I was just about to give up this tedious search for the night, when...click, there was the street name I wanted, and I caught sight of a somewhat familiar, but strange configuration of names. Apparently it was Mom's family, but what a mess of poor handwriting and erroneous transcription of the writing! So, Granddad Alfredo became *Affraid Marazi*, Grandma Ida became Ivie, their eldest son Adaldo (recorded as female) became Adalsla, daughter Henrietta was correctly recorded with her Italian given name of Enriga (we called her Riggi), son John was John, and my mother, correctly, was Josephine.

I also noticed their boarder, Nazaret Naroly, a 41-year-old female, arriving from Italy in 1906, working as a servant for a private family. Wait, could this actually be my grandmother's *brother*, Nazareth Nardinocchi (often shortened to Nardi) who had preceded the family to America? This would prove to be my first documented appearance of Uncle Naz in any official record, and a starting date to search for the family's immigration records.

So many other things were wrong with this record, including the house number. My mother and her older brother, John, were both listed as six years old, whereas Mom was barely four months old at the time. John was also shown as having been born in Pennsylvania, whereas what little other information we have, including his World War II draft card, shows Gary, Indiana. I have no idea who was giving the enumerator this information, but it's obvious he never actually saw the people he was recording inaccurately. Perhaps it was a language problem. Perhaps it was a neighbor... with a language problem... giving the information.

Sharing these finds with a second cousin still living in that area (someone I knew nothing about until she found me on Ancestry.com about eighteen months ago), she offered to go to the nearby cemetery to search for more information that we both wanted. As expected, she found Alfredo and Ida's gravestones, but, unexpectedly, found their eldest son, Adaldo, right beside them, even after an earlier phone call to the cemetery said they had no listing for Adaldo. Not only that, but all three gravestones carried a glass-enclosed photo of our ancestors!

So, the gravestone photos she took have filled in some of the missing pieces of the Morigi family story, and the newly-found census records have produced clues that promise to fill out other aspects of their, and other family members' stories, in their new home, and, hopefully, lead back to their country of origin.

As if I wasn't already well aware of how important it is that I do my own volunteer transcribing of the 1940 census with as much accuracy as possible, even with the current system's built-in double and triple-checks, this experience would have driven that point home, *I'm afraid*.

Onward, now, to the task of finding where my grandparents were located from the time they left Italy, to their arrival in Monessen. Gee, that should be easy.

RENEWAL FORM FOR 2012 – 2013 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, 2012 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 _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

***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.)



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

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Dated Material



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 24 July 2012

GOOGLE EARTH FOR GENEALOGISTS

Speakers: Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL and Richard G. Sayre, CG

This is a special program on the fourth Tuesday of July, at a special time and different location. Pam and Rick Sayre will discuss how to use Google Earth in genealogy. This event will be held at **La Roche College** in room SC103. It will start at **6:30 P.M.**

Tuesday, 21 August 2012

BEGINNING YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISHGEN.ORG

Speaker: Debbie Kapp

JewishGen is the go-to website for starting your Jewish and Eastern European family history research. We'll review navigation and search techniques, explore some of the research helps, and look at the content of databases.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 19 June 2012 ***WHAT'S NEW AT FAMILYSEARCH.ORG?***

Speaker: Shelli Nye, NHG Member

Shelli Nye will review all the new enhancements and information on the re-designed FamilySearch website, which provides free access to a large collection of useful genealogy databases.