



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

## HOMework FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

With the busy 2012 holiday season approaching, it is an ideal time to assign some genealogical homework to be completed during family gatherings this year. Conversations over holiday meals and during holiday events often progress to reminiscing. Emerging from these conversations are golden nuggets of family history, stories about memorable relatives, and celebration traditions. With some planning, these occasions can turn into an opportunity to gain genealogical information.

The typical genealogical enthusiast collects facts and photos to document one's ancestry. However, there is more than just facts and photos in a family history! It is important to remember that the stories and the memories add color to that tree. In fact, group discussions over dessert or coffee during the holidays can be guided towards a low-key group interview with the purpose of gathering new stories, new data, and new perspectives.

Often, older relatives are reluctant to be interviewed one-on-one, even if the questions are presented in advance. Sometimes even if a relative agrees to be interviewed, the conversation may not reveal the information that you want or need.

Plan ahead: what do you want to discover this year? Perhaps you want to find out how holidays were celebrated in the family in earlier generations. Maybe you have a relative that you would like to know more in-depth. Uncover facts or other data to round out the characteristics of an individual from an earlier generation. For genealogists who still have one of their grandparents alive—and if that grandparent knew his/her grandparents—then

one conversation can cross five generations of one family!

What specific information do you want to know? Here are some great general topics to consider when planning your holiday homework to find out more about your family:

- Childhood memories
- Birthdays and other holidays
- Favorite friends and family
- School days
- Activities and hobbies
- Vacations
- Special events
- Landmark events
- Talents and special skills
- Descriptions of favorite relatives
- Advice for self and future generations

Another approach is to think like a journalist. If a relative offers a story, at an appropriate moment, ask follow-up questions that gently extend the story and are connected to the story or facts just retold. Memories are fresh when the story is told.

Do not wait to collect as many family stories, perspectives, and memories as you can! Your ongoing genealogical assignment begins now!

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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

Since 2001, October has been celebrated (by genealogists at least) as Family History Month. This is a great time to share your research with others or maybe take the opportunity to prioritize your research time among all of your normal responsibilities. Perhaps it's time to step back and try putting it all together. Once when I wasn't sure where to take my research next, Elissa Powell, CG, CGL recommended that I construct timelines for my ancestors. By doing so, the gaps and inconsistencies became glaringly obvious. Sometimes the 50,000-foot view makes it easier to plan your next step. Consider it preparation for next month's regular meeting when we have our Annual Round Table Discussion!

Periodically I force myself through another aerial-view exercise in the form of a research update to my relatives. My efforts got a boost this summer from one of the evening programs at GRIP 2012, in which Pam Stone Eagleson, CG, talked about how to write up your family history. Even though I'm just writing short chapters, I was impressed with the value of embellishing your research with family events and local history. Reviewing my research findings within this context, I could see many new avenues to pursue, (which is a little daunting). For my ancestors living in Winona, Minnesota, during World War I, I checked the local newspaper archives (fortunately available online) for local support drives—paying particular attention to events sponsored by their church or trades union. That information added a lot of color to all of the draft cards I had found. If you're considering this approach, Pam recommended *Producing a Quality Family History* by Patricia Law Hatcher. This book is available at Northland Library (donated by NHG) along with several others on the topic, including *You Can Write Your Family History* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Sharon has also written the excellent book *Organizing Your Family History Search*.

On September 7th, Northland Library and NHG hosted another successful After Hours Lock-In utilizing the library's computer resources and staffed by NHG volunteers. Special thanks to  
**(continued on page 23)**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page 22)

Amy Arner for coordinating these workshops with Amy Steele. Due to the enthusiasm of everyone involved, we look forward to bringing these events to everyone two to three times a year. On September 24th, seventeen people joined Carole Ashbridge for a closed-door tour of the Heinz History Center Archives for NHG members-only. Dr. Alexis Macklin gave an overview of the archives and then everyone had a chance to conduct some research.

Lastly, I wanted to remind everyone that after months and months of planning, NHG's fifth fall conference is almost here! On Saturday, October 20th, D. Joshua Taylor will present an all-day conference with the theme *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: Bridging the Gap*. Josh is a well-known genealogist who is regularly invited to speak at national conferences, including FGS, NGS, and RootsTech, where he was the recipient of the Distinguished Presenter Award. He has been frequently asked to lend his professional expertise on the television series *Who Do You Think You Are?* You can learn more about D. Joshua Taylor and other conference details on our web site, including directions to Wildwood Golf Club in Allison Park where the conference will be held this year. Yet again, we've had to move to a larger venue! We'll be glad to help you register for the conference at the monthly meeting, or you can also register through our web site. We'd love to see you there!

~ Krisanne

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## DESSERTS NEEDED FOR 2012 NHG FALL CONFERENCE!

Volunteers are needed to sign up to donate desserts and baked goods for this year's NHG Fall Conference on 20 October 2012. The dessert table at the 2011 Fall Conference was fabulous, and we received numerous compliments. Kathy White will coordinate the effort. Desserts and baked goods can be brought to the venue on the day of the conference. If possible, please use a container that does not need to be returned. Thank you in advance for your help!

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## QUERIES

Submitting a research query for inclusion in a monthly newsletter is a benefit of membership in the NHG.

**McGRAW and GORDON** – Seeking information about John **McGRAW** and Rebecca **GORDON**; married in Delaware pre-1800; settled in Pennsylvania soon after marriage. **Contact** Jo Thompson, P.O. Box 180, Tehachapi, CA 93581-0180 with any details or leads.

**BARNDS / BARTZ** – Seeking information about great great grandparents, Daniel **BARNDS** and Elizabeth **DUNLAP** may have been **m. May, 1838**; Daniel **d. November, 1840** in Brownsville area and buried in Old Washington Cemetery. Daniel was a Fayette County taxpayer in 1838. Elizabeth was the daughter of James **DUNLAP** and Beulah **BURROUGHS**. Daniel and Elizabeth had a son William Fletcher **BARNDS, b. January 1840** in Brownsville area; **moved** to St. Charles, MO in **1842**; **d. 1926** in Saline County, MO. Daniel **BARNDS** supposedly had a brother Charles **BARNDS** who lived in the Lycoming area of PA and later moved to Illinois. Seeking verification of marriage, church information, and heritage. **Contact** Campbell (Cam) **BARNDS** at [cdbarns33@yahoo.com](mailto:cdbarns33@yahoo.com), 919-381-3944, or 8101 Mission Road, Apt. 133, Prairie Village, KS 66208-5281.

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## TAYLOR ELECTED FGS PRESIDENT

Congratulations to D. Joshua Taylor, the speaker at NHG's Fall Conference, who has been elected president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). He is the current Vice President of Administration. The two-year term for his new office starts 1 January 2013.

FGS (<http://www.fgs.org/>) is an umbrella society and only accepts societies, libraries, archives, and other institutions as members. FGS provide tools to help its members grow. NHG is a member society of FGS.

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## HEINZ HISTORY CENTER FIELD TRIP REFLECTIONS

### Claudia Hickly

WAAAH! That's how I feel about doing genealogical research; like a baby, I want information now, and I want it fast. However, I proudly took a small step toward becoming a more mature researcher by joining the NHG field trip to the Heinz History Center Library and Archives. Library Director Alexis Macklin gave us a brief overview of the archives and how to search the catalog online. That is not what I wanted to hear! I wanted Alexis to hand out the white gloves and take us deep into the heart of the archives to see, smell, and touch some ancient and decaying records. If we couldn't do that, then I wanted her by my side, nanny-like, holding my hand, guiding my research and explaining every detail. Instead she let us all loose in her library to search on our own.

I did what any baby left alone in a library would do. I started pulling books off the shelves—giant, heavy—map books. This baby *did know* that she wanted to verify where her Pittsburgh ancestors lived. After searching through several very large map books, another patron informed me that I had been misinterpreting information. Huh? *Always look at the map legend first.* Now I could decipher the information and quickly found the wards and streets where my ancestors lived: Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, Perrysville, Brighton Heights. I also found properties my ancestor had patented in 1788, Beamston & Beam's Hill, in the *Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County*. Yes, with one baby step I had made some thrilling discoveries. But I recognized that I was completely dependent on the cheerful, good-natured, and more mature NHG participants who took the time to answer my questions. And where would I have been without the wise and intrepid Elissa Powell who explained in detail what the abbreviations on the warrantee map meant?

It was such a busy and exciting morning for an infant researcher; time for lunch in the History Center Café with new friends, Rose Mary and Cliff Highman. With our tummies full, the three of us headed to the North Shore to see replicas of the *Nina* and *Pinta* docked on the Ohio

River. We walked along the trail relishing the beauty of the glorious fall day until we stood directly in front of the *Nina* and the *Pinta*. Awe inspiring! And the perfect ending to our NHG field trip.

### Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL

I always enjoy learning more and being able to explore our local repositories. The Heinz History Center Library is no exception with its treasure trove of unique manuscripts. By definition these are original items that don't exist anywhere else. The seemingly eclectic holdings depend on donations and what the collection policy of the library is. No place can take in everything.

I had previously viewed the day books from Casper Reel (1742-1824) who was a well-known trader and landowner in the North Hills. He is Reed Powell's ancestor's brother-in-law, having married the ancestor's sister. Many of our NHG members are also related to Casper, who is buried at Highland Golf Course. Casper's log books and journals have been in the collection and tell of the commerce and trading in this area in the late 1700s. That is until one of the descendants decided that this was no place for "his" family history and took the book. This goes on more often than we would like and leaves a hole in the collection as well as making it inaccessible for other researchers.

Because part of the Casper Reel collection was missing, I perused other collections which included Erie County and York County original deeds, probate records, and criminal fines for things such as fornication and operating a tippling house without a license. Even in the early 1800s the government wanted to know who was serving "spirits."

I encourage everyone to explore the library's online catalog to see what treasures are located on Smallman Street. But even though the catalog is a gateway into the collections, not everything in the collection has been cataloged. Tapping into the knowledge of the archivist and librarian will certainly bring some interesting research material to your table.

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## **A FAMILY AT WAR: THE DIARY OF MARY MARTIN—DIGITISED DIARY OF MOTHER OF FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIER IS LAUNCHED**

*Press Release (Partial)*

*3 October 2012*

Dublin, Ireland – A digitised and transcribed diary, candid and often poignant insight into life for families of Irish soldiers during the Great War was recently launched by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan. Written in 1916, a turbulent year in Irish history, the Diary is an account of daily life written by a mother whose son had been reported missing in action. <http://dh.tcd.ie/martindiary/>.

The Diary ‘A Family at War: Mary Martin’s Diary, 1 January – 25 May 1916’ is an online resource developed and produced by students on Trinity College Dublin’s [M.Phil in Digital Humanities and Culture](#), and the Digital Arts and Humanities PhD in UCC, using a manuscript treasure from the collections of the National Library of Ireland. This innovative approach to understanding our cultural heritage will be made freely available online to the public.

Mary Martin, a widow and mother of twelve children, living in the affluent Dublin suburb of Monkstown, began a diary shortly after she received official word that her son Charlie, a soldier with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was missing in action on the Salonika front. As she wrote in her first entry on New Year’s Day 1916:

“Since I heard you were missing as well as wounded, it has occurred to me to write the diary in the form of a letter. We hope to hear from you soon. Till then cannot communicate with you & later on when you read this it will you know what has been happening.”

The diary ended on May 25th, 1916, shortly before official word came that Charlie had been killed. Set against the backdrop of the Easter Rising and the First World War, the diary chronicles the daily activities of Mary, her family, friends and relatives. The diary includes

132 diary entries. Each has been transcribed and compiled into a searchable database.

The Diary also affords us a rare window onto a fascinating world that too infrequently makes it into the history books or official accounts of a nation’s history. Minister Deenihan notes that “this online edition is a rich source for anyone interested in Irish history, military history, women’s history and genealogy and takes its place within a collection of other publicly-available online resources that shed light on Ireland’s complicated past and the development of the State.”

By developing the manuscript into an online resource this project brings history to everyone. Available 24/7, anywhere in the world, it demonstrates how digital humanities projects maximise the value and reach of scholarly research, bringing archival material out of the archives and onto our desktops.

This project was produced as part of a Digital Scholarly Editing module taught by Professor Susan Schreibman of the [School of English](#), and the Director of the M.Phil in Digital Humanities and Culture. “It provides a model of how we can bring alive historical treasures too infrequently seen by the public. This project is a perfect example of a melding of interdisciplinary skills; how students with a humanities background can utilise their expertise while learning valuable state-of-the-art high-tech skills in the creation of online resources for cultural heritage.”

As with so much digital humanities scholarship, the project was enabled through a web of generous collaborators. The presentation of the Diary was made possible through a collaboration with the University of Victoria, British Columbia. The project borrowed software developed for the Robert Graves Diary created under the direction of TCD alumna Elizabeth Grove White

The Diary and its contexts was also greatly enhanced through the support of Sr Isabelle Smyth, Image Archivist at the Medical Missionaries of Mary. In another twist to this family’s story, Charlie’s sister, Mary Martin, was **(continued on page 26)**

## **DIARY OF MARY MARTIN (continued from page 25)**

a nurse on the same front where Charlie went missing. Letters home to her mother testify to her searching for her brother amongst the wounded. She later went on to found the order of the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

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## **ANCESTRY.COM TO DIGITIZE PA DEATH CERTIFICATES**

The Pennsylvania State Archives has partnered with Ancestry.com to digitize the Pennsylvania death certificates for 1906 through 1961. The process started in August. The scanning is expected to be complete by the end of 2013. While scanning is being done, some certificates will not be available at the State Archives. The indexing of the records is expected to take longer. Jonathan Stayer, Head of Reference Services, said at the October Butler County Genealogical Society meeting that he does not know whether Ancestry will make the images available before the indexing is complete.

According to the People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access web site (<http://www.pahr-access.org>), Ancestry will provide exclusive online access to the certificates for three years. After that, the database will be moved to the State Archives web site. During the three years Pennsylvania residents will be able to access the certificates for free. Residents of other states will need an Ancestry.com subscription. Once the records are moved to the State Archives web site, the certificates will be free to everyone.

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## **RESEARCH TRIP TOOLKIT**

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

What do you need to take when you go somewhere to research? It depends where you're going. Genealogists usually go to a cemetery or a repository (archive, courthouse, library, etc.) The tools you need differ for the two types of destinations.

The first thing you will need at a cemetery is a list of the people you are looking for. You also

will need tools to help you read the stones you find. These tools should include a mirror to help read worn carvings, clippers to trim vegetation, a camera to take pictures, a spray bottle filled with water to clean off dirt, and a notebook and writing utensil to take notes. It's also helpful to have a bucket to carry your tools in. You might also want a measuring tape to record the dimensions of a stone or lot.

Some tools are needed no matter what kind of repository you visit. Most important is a list of what you're looking for (including call numbers where applicable) and some background information on the target families and individuals. Please only take summaries of the background information, not all of your research material. Some repositories have limited space and you won't be able to spread out the way you do at home. Additional tools should include writing utensils, change and small bills for copiers, notebooks, a magnifying glass, paper clips, flash drives, and a digital camera or scanner. You may also want to take your laptop computer or tablet, but be aware not all repositories have a place to plug in your devices. Copy machines at most, but not all, repositories will take quarters. For instance the microfilm copiers at the Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Department only take dimes. Some other things you should consider taking are snacks to recharge and over the counter medications (aspirin, allergy pills, etc.).

Other tools are dictated by the type of repository. Most archives do not allow pens, so make sure you have pencils and erasers. Some do not allow notebooks so you will need loose sheets of paper on which to take notes. Many archives do not allow bags or closed containers in their research areas—be prepared to store your bag in a locker. At many courthouses you need to pass through a metal detector, so having a bag or brief case in which to put all of your metal items will speed up the process.

You can create a dedicated bag you take on research trips. Put the tools listed above (well, maybe not the camera, laptop, or scanner), plus anything specific to your research, in it. That way you won't have to remember everything you should take and you'll be ready to go!

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## WEB SITE FOR FREE GENEALOGY NEWS

Robert Ragan of Florida loves technology and genealogy. A former director of a Family History Center, Ragan has two great web sites for genealogists: *Treasure Maps Genealogy* <http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps> and his newest web site *Genealogy Compass*, found at <http://genealogycompass.com>.

The *Genealogy Compass* web site is a free online resource “that will help all genealogy and family tree researchers by including news and reviews of the latest happenings in the online genealogy world.” This site presents news items about anything from what is the best USB flash drive to news about findings or the latest digitization project. Along with encouraging and useful tips, Ragan provides links to recommended sites, detailed reviews, and multimedia clips.

One of the goals of the *Genealogy Compass* web site is to present information for all levels of genealogical researcher and to do so in a clear and concise manner without limiting the steps and guides. As an experienced family history teacher, Ragan also publishes links to tutorials, home-study courses, and other resources for genealogists to use from home or at a remote repository.

As the seasons change in the coming months, don't neglect your genealogical research and family history projects. Instead, get your research pointed in the right direction – or explore a new place – by starting with the numerous helpful resources on the *Genealogy Compass* site.

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## HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICANS COMES TO LIFE AT NEW WEBSITE

Press Release

October 9, 2012

Phoenix, AZ - Native American Indian history is complex, diverse and essential to the development of the United States. For students of history or those who are simply curious about Native Americans, a new website on the topic

will be both informative and eye-opening.

At [HistoryofNativeAmericans.com](http://HistoryofNativeAmericans.com), fascinating information about the original inhabitants of the Americas is only a click away. Spokeswoman Missy Reston hopes that the website will raise awareness of the many Native Americans who have played a role in the history of the United States.

“Native American history is a major part of American history, yet too many people are unaware of the important ways that Native Americans have affected the growth and development of our nation. We want to increase recognition of this important group,” she says.

From Native Americans' migration to the Americas thousands of years ago to the Mexican government's treatment of Apache Indians more recently, [HistoryofNativeAmericans.com](http://HistoryofNativeAmericans.com) provides readers with an expansive look at Native American history and culture throughout the centuries.

The site also explores the relationship between Native Americans and Europeans during the settlement of the United States—and the ways that relationship changed over the years.

“Visitors to the website may be surprised by what they read about Native American tribes and their interactions with European settlers,” Reston says. “There really is a wealth of information.”

[HistoryofNativeAmericans.com](http://HistoryofNativeAmericans.com) pays special attention to the role played by Native American women throughout history, highlighting the fascinating life of Pocahontas, an Algonquin Indian. The site also celebrates the achievements of Native American leaders like Geronimo and Sitting Bull, who fought to defend their land.

Accompanied by paintings of Native American life, the history of Native Americans receives the attention it deserves at this enthralling website.

If you'd like to find out about Native American history, visit [historyofnativeamericans.com](http://historyofnativeamericans.com).

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## **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

### **Wednesday, 17 October 2012, 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORY CENTER**

Carole Ashbridge, MLS, will be the featured speaker at the next Beaver County meeting. She will present "RSS Feeds, Blogs, Twitter, Wikis, the cloud, Facebook, Dropbox: What Does All this Jargon Mean?" The meeting will be held in the Beaver Valley Family History Center in Monaca. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs>.

### **Friday, 19 October 2012, 7:00 P.M. KUSHKUSHKEE TRAIL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

The Kushkushkee Trail Chapter is sponsoring a special evening event featuring D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS. He will present "It's a Revolutionary Idea: Tracing Your Patriot Ancestor" held at the Ross Community Center, 1000 Ross Municipal Drive, Pittsburgh. The cost is \$20.00 and pre-registration is required. The chapter's web site is <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paktcdar/Kushkushkee.htm>.

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

NHG will hold our fifth annual conference on 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 United States between 1780 and 1830," "Mapping Your Success: Employing Maps for Genealogical Research," and "Putting It Together: A Case Study."

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. We will have door prizes, including a combination printer/

fax/scanner, online database subscriptions, genealogical software, a Heritage Books discount certificate, gift baskets and more.

The registration brochure is available at meetings and on our website <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>. The EconoLodge in Wexford (724-935-1000) is holding a room block in the name of the North Hills Genealogists at a discounted rate.

### **Monday, 22 October 2012, 7:00 P.M. CRANBERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Cranberry Public Library is hosting "Genealogy 101." There will be panel discussion on how to get started. The three panelists will be Shelli Nye from the Cranberry Family History Center, Lu Eisler from the Butler Public Library, and Amy Arner from the Cranberry Genealogy Club. The event will be held in the Library Conference Room at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road. Pre-registration is required for this free event. To register please call 724-776-9100.

### **Wednesday, 24 October 2012, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB**

Debbie Billeter will discuss writing your family history at the next Cranberry Genealogy Club meeting. It 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>.

### **Thursday, 25 October 2012, 7:00 P.M. NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Vickie Dellaquila, a professional organizer, will present "Don't Toss My Memories In The Trash: A Step-By-Step Guide to Helping Seniors Downsize, Organize, and Move" on October 25th. Learn about downsizing a household in a caring manner. Pre-registration is required for this free event. You can register online at <http://www.northlandlibrary.org> or call the Adult Services Desk at 412-366-8100, ext.113.

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**WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**  
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**Saturday, 3 November 2012, 9:30 A.M.**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) is hosting an all-day seminar with the theme *Day of the Dead: Exploring the Documents of Death*. The event will feature four lectures: "The Dead and the Dying: Funeral Homes, Obituaries, and Cemeteries" by Rebecca Whitman Koford; "Of Sound Mind and Body: Using Probate Records in Your Research" by Michael Hait, CG; "Thinking About Your Stuff: Estate Planning for Genealogists" by Mary K. Mannix, MA, MLS; and "Obituaries: From Humor to Horror" by Jerry Smith, CG. The event will be held at the Christ Church Neighborhood House Great Hall, 2nd Street above Market, Old City Philadelphia. For more information, please visit <http://genpa.org>.

**Sunday, 4 November 2012, 1:00 P.M.**  
**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM**

The Annual Slovak Heritage Festival will be held November 4th. The event will feature four lectures and musical and dance performances. The speakers will include Lisa Alzo, Carl Kotlarchik, Paul Kostyak, and Vladimír Burčík. It will be held at the Cathedral of Learning on the Pitt campus in Oakland. Visit <http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/currentinfo/currentinfo.html> for more information.

**Saturday, 10 November 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Chris Kubiak will present "Fort Pitt and Pittsburgh in the Revolutionary War" at the next WPGS meeting. It will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh. Meetings are free and open to the public. Parking in the Carnegie Library and Museum Garage is \$5.00. Go to <http://www.wpgs.org> for more details.

**Monday, 12 November 2012, 1:00 P.M.**  
**MT. LEBANON GENEALOGY**  
**SOCIETY**

Joseph Kennedy from the Riverbends Genealogy and Historical Society will be the speaker at the next Mt. Lebanon Genealogy Society meeting. It will be held at the Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Pittsburgh. Meetings are free and open to the public. More information is available at <http://mtlebanongenealogysociety.org>.

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**CRANBERRY FHC HOURS**  
**CHANGE AND HOLIDAY**  
**CLOSING**

Effective October 25th, the Cranberry Family History will be open on Thursdays from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The center will also close for a Christmas break. It will be closed the weeks of December 17th, December 24th, and January 1st. The center will re-open on Thursday, January 10th with its regular hours. Patrons can request appointments to use the center during the break by emailing [CranberryFHC@gmail.com](mailto:CranberryFHC@gmail.com).

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**GEORGIA STATE ARCHIVES**  
**THREATENED WITH CLOSURE**

The Georgia State Archives is being threatened with closure due to state budget cuts. As things stand now, the staff will be cut from ten to three people as of November 1st. The archives will no longer be open to the public after that date. A grass-roots effort has begun to stop the closure. Visit the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (<http://www.fogah.org>) for up-to-date information. There is also a petition you can sign at <http://www.change.org/petitions/the-governor-of-ga-leave-our-state-archives-open-to-the-public>.

You do not have to be a resident of Georgia to aid these efforts. Please consider writing to the governor and secretary of state of Georgia to expressing your opposition of this action. Also please spread the word about this to other genealogists and researchers.



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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Tuesday, 20 November 2012** **NHG ANNUAL ROUND TABLE**

*NHG Members*

November is a popular month for our group to break through brick walls! Join NHG for the annual Round Table Discussion. This meeting is an opportunity for all members to exchange ideas for resolving problems in family history research. Everyone, whether a beginner or an experienced genealogist, can benefit!

### **Saturday, 1 December 2012** **NHG ANNUAL SOCIAL**

*NHG Members*

Come tour the North Allegheny Museum at McKnight Elementary. Joe Bullick, the creator and curator of the museum, will provide an overview of the photos, genealogy, and maps of the North Hills area. We will then have time to look around. Join us for lunch afterward at a place to be determined.

### **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 16 October 2012**

#### **WIKIS, BLOGS, TWITTER, FACEBOOK, DROPBOX, RSS FEEDS, THE CLOUD: WHAT DOES ALL THIS JARGON MEAN?**

*Carole Ashbridge, MLS, NHG Social Media Chair*

Carole Ashbridge, who is always looking for an easier way, will discuss applications that can help you keep up with trends in genealogy, research your family, and organize all that paper. The best part—most are FREE!