

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



North Hills Genealogists  
P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we had some 70 degree weather so I'm thinking positively that Spring is really on its way (of course, last night we had snow again).

With the warmer weather coming there are also a lot of great opportunities to expand your knowledge about genealogy and to participate in activities.

On April 17, 2004 WPGS will have its annual Spring Seminar. This year it is being held at the Four Points Sheraton in Cranberry. The featured speaker will be John Philip Colletta, PhD. If you have never heard Dr. Colletta speak you are in for a treat. Check out the information on page 67. Send payment to WPGS, 4400 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

On April 3, 2004 the Allegheny City Society and the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table will hold their annual seminar to benefit Pittsburgh Civil War monument preservation. This is an all day seminar and will be held at The Babcock Meeting Center on Babcock Boulevard.

On June 19 WPGS will be holding their 30th Anniversary Conference. This will include a tour

of the historic Neville House National Historic Landmark and lunch. The speaker at this conference will be John T. Humphrey, another nationally-known speaker.

Of course, there are the plans being made for the NHG research trip to Washington, DC in September. Check out page 63 for more information on this trip.

The NHG April meeting will have Russ Cooper speaking on "Genetic Genealogy Researching Using DNA Testing." This should be a very interesting look at a new avenue for genealogical research.

The Board has approved a revision to the current NHG Bylaws governing terms of office for the elected officers. See the proposed revision on page 65. We will vote on this at the general meeting in April. The Board also has a Bylaws Committee working on a total update of the current Bylaws. These will be submitted to the membership in the near future.

As you can see, there is a great deal going on in the next few months. Hope you are able to take advantage of all of these conferences.

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All meetings free unless otherwise noted

**Tues, April 6, 2004, 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting** - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

**Tues, April 20, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting** - Genetic Genealogy Researching Using DNA Testing - Russ Cooper (see article)

**Sun., March 21, 2004 - 2:00 pm - Air Force Band Night Fight** - Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial - Help honor and support our troops overseas and their families. Send ticket request w/sase to Soldiers & Sailors or e-mail at [saluteickets@soldiersandsailor.hall.org](mailto:saluteickets@soldiersandsailor.hall.org)

**Mon., March 22, 2004 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table** - 7:00 pm - Dentistry in the Civil War - Dr. Michael Kramer. The Babcock Meeting Center, Babcock Boulevard.

**Sat., April 3, 2004, 8:00 am - The Allegheny City Society & Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table** - The Keystone State in the Civil War - The Babcock (see article) (fee)

**Sat., April 3, 2004 - 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Western Reserve Historical Society** - Exploring Family History - An Introduction: Home Sources, Vital Records, Research Process, Charts & Forms, Organization, Cemetery and Funeral Home Records, Types of Evidence, Documentation, U. S. Census Records. Contact: Roger Ellsworth, registrar at 216-283-6451 or at [wrhsgen@juno.com](mailto:wrhsgen@juno.com). (fee)

**Sat., April 16, 2004 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - WPGS Spring Seminar** - Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry - John Philip Colletta, PhD (fee) (see registration form on page 67)

**Sat. April 24, 2004 - Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society** - Bowie, MD - Taxes, Female Ancestors and Sources for German Research - Speakers: Barbara Vines Little and John T. Humphrey. Check <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags> for more information.

**May 19-22, 2004 - NGS Annual Conference in the States** - Sacramento, CA. Check the following sites <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs> or NGS at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> for more information.

**Sat., June 19, 2004 - WPGS 30th Anniversary Celebration** - John T. Humphrey will be luncheon speaker. Historic Neville House tour and lunch. Check <http://www.wpgs.org> for more information.

**Sat., Sept. 11, 2004 - Gathering of the Frontier Families and Indian Tribes of the Northeast Territory** - Held at Ft. Pitt Museum, Pittsburgh contact: Ken Girty for more information [kegfdl@aol.com](mailto:kegfdl@aol.com) or 724-789-7505

## THE KEYSTONE STATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

Saturday, April 3, 2004

This annual seminar is to raise funds for the restoration of the Allegheny County Civil War Soldier's memorial in Allegheny City.

The morning session (8:45 am) will cover: "The Allegheny College Volunteers" by Jonathan Helmreich; "Rally Round the Flag: Pennsylvania Colorbearers at Gettysburg" by Terry Latschar; "History of Civil War Music" with Home Front. The afternoon session (1:30 pm) will feature: "The Philadelphia Brigade at Pickett's Charge" by Wayne Motts; "Beyond Gettysburg: Pennsylvania in the Civil War" by William Pencak.

**NHG APRIL 20 MEETING**  
**GENETIC GENEALOGY RESEARCHING USING**  
**DNA TESTING**  
**Russ Cooper**

DNA testing is a new additional genealogical tool. DNA can be used to prove or disprove bloodlines. DNA will not provide names, places or dates of birth, death or marriage. However, DNA information can provide with scientific certainty that two people are closely related; i.e., they share a common ancestor. And much more for eliminating brickwalls and uncertainty as to relationships with other families.

The value of DNA testing is aiding an ability to help find "Genetic Cousins" by comparing the results of as few as two people. Males are able to see if another male is a descendant from their direct paternal line; or if a spelling change or adoption confuses relationship; is there a relationship with another family in another region or with individuals in other lineage groups. Women, through separate testing, can establish, or disprove sequencing relatedness of ancestor females.

We propose to discuss what is DNA testing, as a scientific tool, which involves many facets such as facilitating a unique family fingerprint; DNA signature matching and interpretation of results for surname groups or lineages; generation distance; surname/clan reconstruction and regional migration. Deciphering the terminology such as markers, mutation rates, Haplogroups, MRCA, etc., can help understanding and take the mystery out of this new genealogy tool. And, how I can use public service DNA databases to further matching of my results with other DNA submitters using other commercial services for testing.

Who is Russ Cooper? Born in Boston, raised in the corn fields of Iowa, University of Minnesota engineering graduate, worked and lived in San

Diego, Cleveland, Chicago and New York City, etc.

In genealogy for over ten years providing leadership; monthly leading discussion groups, writing newsletters and providing help to others. Created the North East Ohio Computer-Aided-Genealogy Society (NEOCAG) and served as President, now serving in an active Retiring President mode. Weekly volunteer at Cleveland's WRHS. Was also Program Vice President for ECCGS (East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society) where programming was directed to providing "how to" monthly!

**NHG RESEARCH TRIP TO**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**  
**Sept. 26-29, 2004**

Sign up now for this research trip to Washington, DC. The bus will leave Pittsburgh on Sunday, September 26 at 11:30 am and arrive in Washington, DC around 5:00 pm. There will be an orientation meeting at the hotel at 7:00 pm that evening, following a buffet dinner at the hotel.

Monday, Sept. 27 and Tuesday, Sept. 28 you will be free to visit the National Archives, Library of Congress and the DAR to do your research. On Sept. 29 the bus will leave Washington around 4:00 pm but you will have time to do some research at the Archives in the morning (it is within walking distance of the hotel).

The cost for the trip is based on a per person charge and includes: transportation to and from Pittsburgh, dinner on Sunday night, breakfast each of the three mornings in DC and an orientation program on Sunday night. Payment is due by May 18, 2004. Quad: \$175/person Triple: \$200/person Double: \$240/person Single: \$375/person

## **SOLDIERS & SAILORS TRANSFERS RECORDS TO CARNEGIE LIBRARY**

**From JOTS FROM THE POINT, WPGS**

**newsletter March/April 2004**

WPGS President, Diane Ragan, reports that the task of transferring all the books and manuscripts from the Library at Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum & Memorial to Carnegie Library is nearly completed. Carnegie Library, Carnegie Museum and Soldiers & Sailors entered a partnership last autumn to exchange military artifacts in Carnegie's archives for Soldiers & Sailor's library and manuscript collection. "As a result of this collaboration, the public benefits because they now have access to valuable records for researching military ancestors," says Diane.

Soldiers & Sailors library was only open to the public by appointment. The library held numerous volumes of books containing the names of members from fraternal organizations and women's auxiliaries that attended annual state or national conferences. For instance, now on the shelves of the Pennsylvania Department of Carnegie is the 70 volume set of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, including a 4 volume index; 40 volumes of *The Confederate Veteran (1893-1932)* and a 3 volume set of *Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War* to name just a few.

The manuscript collection includes the proceedings and records of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Union Veterans and Spanish American War Veteran posts. The manuscript collection will eventually be housed in the Oliver Room at Carnegie Library. Before completing the physical transfer, however, WPGS will microfilm the records, thus helping to preserve them while making them available for research.

This is great news for people searching for Civil War ancestors in this area.

## **EXPERT ADVICE: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS AND PLACE NAMES IN IRISH RESEARCH**

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Church (or ecclesiastical) parishes: Church parishes are not the same as civil parishes in Ireland. The Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church have separate parish systems. Following the Reformation, the Church of Ireland took over the medieval Catholic church parishes and their buildings. The Church of Ireland parishes historically had the same boundaries as the civil parishes. The uneven distribution of Church of Ireland parishioners, however, in the 18th and 19th centuries caused Church of Ireland parishes to be subdivided and combined. This means the Church of Ireland parish boundaries are not necessarily the same as the civil parish's boundaries.

With the reorganization of the Roman Catholic church in the later 18th century, the number of Catholic parishes increased. A civil parish may have parts of one or more Catholic parishes within its boundaries. Brian Mitchell's "A Guide to Irish Parish Registers" lists the names of Catholic parishes within each civil parish. Find out what Catholic and Protestant congregation existed in each civil parish in 1837 by consulting Samuel Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland."

Excerpted from "A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Irish Ancestors" by Dwight A. Radford and Kyle J. Betit, \$19.99. Reprinted here with permission from the publisher, Betterway Books. Available in bookstores or online at: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com>.



## SOURCE CERTAINTY

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Genealogists often ask, "How many sources are considered enough to prove something?" The only appropriate answer is "As many as it takes." Proof may come in one direct statement. If it doesn't, you'll need to search for more evidence to convince the "genealogical jury" in your head that you've made the case. Say you've finally found someone in an old city directory who you think is your ancestor. Before moving on up your family tree, ask these questions to be sure you have the truth:

1. Is the conclusion likely in the time, place, and other documented circumstances of the ancestor's life?
3. Is the person marrying too young or much later than the norm?
3. Is a child born when the mother is older than 45?
4. Do gaps of years between children suggest a second marriage?
5. Is your conclusion likely, logical and reasonable from what you know of your ancestor's life?
6. Would other researchers, looking at the same set of evidence, be likely to agree with your conclusion?

Excerpted from The Sleuth Book for Genealogists by Emily Anne Croom (Betterway Books, \$17.99), available online now.

Keep these questions in mind the next time you "think" you've found evidence of an ancestor.

## BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Board has approved the following amendment to the current bylaws and is submitting it to the membership for consideration. This change will be voted on by the membership at the April, 2004 meeting.

### The current bylaws read:

No elected officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in one position

### Proposed Revision:

The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms; the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may run for more than two consecutive terms in that office, if nominated.

Please review this proposed change and be prepared to vote at the April meeting.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for office for the coming membership year. If you are interested in running for a position or wish to suggest a candidate, please contact any of the members of the committee. Please verify with the person you are nominating to be sure they are willing to run for office.

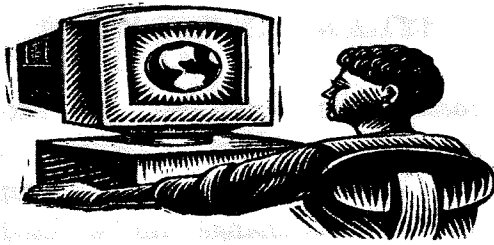
### Committee:

Irene Dinning  
Donna Booth

Laura Kunig  
Elissa Powell

Here's your chance to help NHG continue to grow. None of these jobs are difficult and only involve a small amount of your time.

**Have you hugged your family tree lately?**



## WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: all start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

**Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at [DJBooth@worldnet.att.net](mailto:DJBooth@worldnet.att.net).**

Ireland Passenger Lists 1677-1921

<http://freespace.virgin.net/alan.tupman/sites/irish.htm>

USGEN Web Archives Digital Library National Search

[rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm](http://rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm)

Roll Call Mania

[pa-roots.com/~rollcall](http://pa-roots.com/~rollcall)

UK & Ireland Genealogy

[genuki.org.uk](http://genuki.org.uk)

Island Ireland

<http://islandireland.com>

The National Archives of Ireland Transportation Records Database

[nationalarchives.ie/search01.html](http://nationalarchives.ie/search01.html)

World Vital Records

<http://worldvitalrecords.com>

Genetic Genealogy

[http://msnbc.com/news/generoots\\_front.asp](http://msnbc.com/news/generoots_front.asp)

## CAN SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS HELP IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH?

The following information is from the Social Security website

**Question:** What information is available from Social Security records to help in genealogical research?

**Answer:** Records potentially available from SSA include the Application for a Social Security Number (SS-5) and information from the "claims folder" for past recipient's of benefits. In any case, to obtain any of this information from SSA you will need to file a Freedom of Information Act request. To search their records for the information you want, you will need to furnish identifying information. Records are filed by SS number so if you do not have that you will need to furnish full name, date and place of birth and parents' full names. They cannot search for the SSN for people born before 1865. Send the request to:

Social Security Administration  
Freedom of Information Officer  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

A deceased person does not have any privacy rights. Therefore, if he or she applied for an SSN, SSA can generally provide a copy of the Application for a Social Security Card. This document contains the person's name, date and place of birth, and parents' names that were given when he or she applied for the number.

The fee for searching their records is \$27 when the SSN is known and \$29 when the number is unknown or is incorrect. You will be charged the cost of searching the records even if they are unable to locate any information on the person you are asking about.

The Social Security Administration did not begin keeping records until 1936; therefore they have no records about people who died before then.



# Spring Seminar



## Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

**April 17, 2004**

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:15 am Libraries, Archives & Public  
Record Offices: Understanding  
Resource Repositories
- 10:30 am Passenger Arrival Records  
1820-1957
- 11:45 am to 12:45 pm Buffet Luncheon

### *First Families of Western Pennsylvania Awards*

- 1:00 pm How to Prepare for a Successful  
Research Trip in European Records
- 2:15 pm Turning Biographical Facts Into  
Real-Life Events: How to Build  
Historical Context

**\$35.00 Members**

**\$40.00 Non-Members**

**John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.**

### Location:

**Four Points Sheraton  
Pittsburgh North  
910 Sheraton Drive  
Mars, PA 15046  
(724) 776-6900**

John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, he is based in Washington, DC, where he conducts workshops for the National Archives and teaches courses for the Smithsonian Institution and local universities. He also lectures nationally and is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University (Birmingham, AL) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (Salt Lake City). He has also been an instructor and course coordinator for the National Institute on Genealogical Research (Washington, DC), the Genealogical Institute of Texas (Dallas), and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America (Springfield, IL). His publications include two manuals -- *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans* -- and numerous how-to articles. Dr. Colletta has appeared on local and national radio and television, and is featured in the PBS series "Ancestors."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check if WPGS Member

For more information, call  
(412) 687-6811 or [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org)

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check if WPGS Member

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to WPGS in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

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## THE IRISH IN NEW YORK CITY

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2004 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

This week I had a chance to examine an interesting Web site called "The Irish in New York City." It is a history site, not a genealogy site. Nonetheless, anyone with Irish ancestry in New York City will want to look at this one. It is fascinating.

Quoting from the Web site:

The Irish poured into New York City following the famine. From June to December 1847, 52,946 Irish immigrants arrived. By 1860, the Irish comprised 25% of New York. These immigrants were poor, unskilled and illiterate. Mostly Catholic, from rural areas, many lived in sheer poverty where violence was part of their everyday life. They were mocked by newspapers, religious leaders and politicians. They were detested by native-born Americans who viewed them as unwanted labor competition with a foreign culture.

However, they rose to prominence in a relatively short time - an unparalleled social movement to prosperity.

The site contains several databases filled with valuable genealogy information including:

The Deaths in Ireland page contains transcripts taken from the New York city newspaper. *The Irish-American*. Spellings as they appear in the newspaper. Many of these records are no longer available in Ireland; the New York City newspaper (and this Web site) may be the only source of such information. Only the year 1857 is available at this time.

Marriages in Ireland - a similar page, only of marriages. Again, much of this information may not be available elsewhere. At this time, only the marriages for 1857 are available online.

1857 Death Notices from New York City, as published in *The Irish-American*.

Draft Riots - a detailed historical perspective that involved many Irish during the American Civil War.

The Tenderloin and Satan's Circus - this lists many of the infamous saloons and bordellos of the 19th century era, as well as the widespread police corruption. You will also learn the story of police officer Charles Becker.

A Surname Database page allows you to see if anyone else is researching your surnames. You can also add your own interests to the database.

The above list provides a glimpse of what is available on this excellent Web site. However, you can find even more. I did not list all of the information available as such a list would probably fill this newsletter.

You can access the free "Irish in New York City" Web site at: <http://www.inyc.freesevers.com>.

My thanks to Marie Daly for telling me about this interesting site.

Ed: If you have Irish ancestors who came to the US during the famine years, you might want to check this site. You never know what you might find (or who you might find). I have one Irish line, but unfortunately they came over earlier so they would not be in this (or at least the ones I am interested in - but who know, others may be). Fortunately, my gr-gr-grandmother from Ireland did do a family genealogy book (small and sometimes confusing) but full of information for me to follow. Thank you Mary Finlay!



## **WPGS ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

### **We Need Volunteers!!!**

As you may have heard, WPGS has been working with the County to sort, catalog and preserve many of the historical documents from the County's early history. These documents have been sitting in a warehouse for years. Because of the size of this project, WPGS needs volunteers to help with this project. If you have some free time and want to help "save" these historic documents, they would love your help. The following is a request from the Chairman of this Committee for your help (there are several NHG members already working on this committee. In fact Jo Henderson was the original Chairman)

We are currently searching old documents and docket books of Allegheny County at the Records Center on the North Side of Pittsburgh. This is quite an adventure! Imagine finding original documents from as early as 1799. We are cataloging our findings and plan to go through those documents that are of genealogical interest, index them and perhaps microfilm them.

We are in need of volunteers to help with this project. The work area is a warehouse with boxes and books that have been sitting on shelves for many years, and so they may be very dusty. We are in the process of developing an archive room where we examine the items after finding them. This area has an air conditioner and humidifier and will also have space heaters.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact Bob Seeberger at 422-531-3116 or e-mail Bob at RobertSeeberger@cs.com.

Ed Note: The City of Pittsburgh has decided to transfer their old records to this site also, so this will be an ongoing project. Here's your chance to help save Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's

history (and maybe find that piece of missing family information you have been searching for for years.) Volunteers in other PA counties and other states have done this type of work in their areas (even if that area was not where their ancestors lived) and many of us have benefitted from their work. Here is your chance to "pay them back" for the work they did that may have helped you in your research.

## **ROLL CALL MANIA WEBSITE**

In the Web Wandering column I have listed a web site called "Roll Call Mania." This is a free site where you can list any of your PA surnames and search for others who are also researching the same names. Here are the guidelines for submitting your surnames to this site.

Send an e-mail to 74bug@nauticom.net. The format for your submission should be the following:

SURNAME (in caps) County, State (must be PA),  
Your first name, Your e-mail address.

Ex: BREWER, Westmoreland, PA, Miokey  
74bug@nauticom.net.

This site is maintained by Mickey Cendrowski with space provided by the Armstrong County, PA list owners. Here's your chance to get your PA surnames out there and find others researching the same names. And it is FREE!!!!

## **NHG CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning, co-chairs of the current NHG Cemetery book committee are seeking volunteers to help with more readings this spring/summer. If you can help, contact either of them at a meeting or by e-mail. I know they will be glad to have your help.

# **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

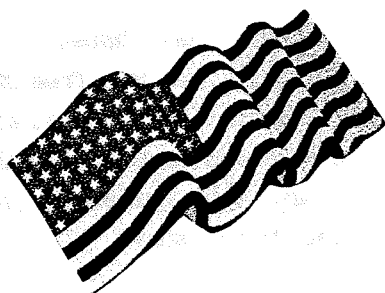
**C/O Northland Public Library**

**300 Cumberland Road**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **DATED MATERIAL**



## **GENETIC GENEALOGY RESEARCHING USING DNA TESTING**

**Russ Cooper**

**April 20, 2003 - 7:00 pm**

### **SYMPATHY**

We want to extend our sympathy to the family of NHG member Robert E. Schroeder on his passing on November 3, 2003. He was a member of NHG since 1991. The Board has voted to make a donation to Northland Library in his name.

The note from his family stated: "He enjoyed his time with the genealogy organization and the persons involved very much."

"Bob did much valuable work for his family and this work will be lovingly preserved and carried on by his children."

**North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does NOT maintain a library and does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.**

If you want to receive an e-mail notification of upcoming NHG meetings/events and meetings of other organizations, send your e-mail address to [pioneerbook@juno.com](mailto:pioneerbook@juno.com) and you will be added to the list. Don't miss any NHG meetings because you forgot to write it on your calendar.