



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

LIVING THROUGH THE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD

By Sharon Cimoch, NHG Member

My great-great-grandparents, Francis and Hannah Gunnett, were married in Pennsylvania in 1853. Shortly after that, they moved to Meramac Springs, Missouri, where Francis worked as a collier for the furnace works there. They lived there and raised all of their children until the death of Francis in December of 1888.

Over the years, I've connected with other relatives who had all heard the same family legend that I had; that Grandma (Hannah) Gunnett had been in Johnstown, Pennsylvania when the flood occurred in 1889. No one had ever been able to verify that story though, until recently.

A few years ago, I located a transcription of the *Johnstown City Directory* from 1889. The information in it had originally been collected earlier that year, but the bindery was destroyed in the flood along with all of the almost completed directories. Fortunately, the proof sheets were saved and used to redo the list of citizens. Once the casualties were accounted for, the publishers were able to show accurate losses by using an asterisk to denote a person was drowned and a plus for someone who was missing. The number of persons in each household at the time of the first canvass was also given, and a second number for those reported to be in the household after the flood. (A total of 2,209 Johnstown residents were killed by the flood, including ninety-nine entire families.)

Grandma Gunnett had a brother Thomas and two maiden sisters who lived in Johnstown, and when I looked for their names on the final directory, I found this listing: *Mary E. and*

Delida [sic] Misses, r h (for rents house) 82 Market Street, 2-3. The next line said Thomas Beard, charcoal burner, home 82 Market Street. I also found Mary, Delilah and Thomas in other directories and census records for at least 25 years, all living together in the Johnstown area. They were obviously long-time residents of the town, even after the flood.

Since Hannah was still a fairly young widow at 54, and the railroad had been completed across the country less than 10 years before, there is no doubt in my mind that the number 3 was meant to include her—their visitor - in the accounting. Also, one of her grandchildren stated that Grandma Gunnett gave her a doll one time and told her that her brother Tom had picked it up from the debris after the flood. I think that she must have traveled back and forth many times to visit her siblings over the ensuing years until her death in 1929.

[Editors' Note: Find the city directory online at <http://www.camgenpa.com/books/1889Dir>. The devastating Johnstown (PA) Flood occurred on 31 May 1889. This year marks the 125th Anniversary of this disaster. There are two historic websites about the Johnstown Flood: The National Park Service site at <http://www.nps.gov/jofl/index.htm> and the Johnstown Flood Museum site, found at <http://www.jaha.org/FloodMuseum/history.html>. See this month's *Where Genealogists Meet* for an event commemorating this disaster.]

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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, Pennsylvania. 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

I sometimes feel like I am drowning in data. Not information, especially not useful information. There is so much data on the Internet that I cannot sort it out. And more and more data is coming online all the time.

At one time I subscribed to some message lists and several blogs, but I found myself reading through pages and pages of sometimes enlightening and helpful data, but not the information I needed at the time. Now I have cut down my subscriptions to just the *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, and I go online once every few months to check message boards of interest for my genealogical research.

Of course there are plenty of places to look for specific information. Our society website has a useful list of links, and Cyndi's List provides literally thousands of places to find information. But I spend a lot of time looking at various fractured and incomplete databases to find what I am looking for, often unsuccessfully.

The Internet can be very helpful if we use it correctly. Rather than spending time searching for that article I clipped or that seminar I attended on how to organize my files, I just enter "how to organize genealogical information" into my search engine, and a whole list of useful links comes up. Or I can Google "How to Use Early Kentucky Tax Records," and up pops a couple of pertinent articles from FamilySearch. The same holds true for almost any other topic that I might be interested in at the moment. On-demand webinars offered by a variety of organizations can also be helpful. Of course no one I know actually keeps user manuals around today, since almost anything can be found on YouTube.

My point is that information about how to do almost anything can be found on the Internet, but not necessarily specific "content" or information, say, about my family. That is much harder. That requires putting together a research strategy and following it closely, not only on-line, but also by traveling to local or regional repositories, courthouses, corresponding with cousins, etc., to (hopefully) find those elusive nuggets of information.

By the way, I am often more successful in finding useful databases by entering the specific information I want in my search engine, e.g., "Illinois marriages 1800–1840", which takes me directly to every place that may have that information, rather than trying to follow a search tree within, for instance, Ancestry.com. State and local records that I had no idea were available on-line can often be found in that way.

As you progress in your own research, try new techniques for locating information online. Partner with another NHG member or a relative to work together and to share ideas that have worked for locating specific online information. Cutting through the excessive data is necessary for successful online research.

~ Dave

NHG REFLECTIONS ON FIELD TRIP TO PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

Diane Selembo

This was the first time that I visited Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Department. I didn't even know it was there. After having previously spent hours on the Internet looking for my grandmother's history, more specifically looking for her maiden name, I looked up her marriage license (1906) while there, and lo and behold, I found her name on microfilm. I can't wait to do research on her maiden name now. Thanks to NHG!

Sue Stevens

I say that if your family came from the Pittsburgh area, then the Pennsylvania Department is a great place to conduct your research. I found family members in old Pittsburgh city directories on microfilm that I could not find in the census records. Marilyn Holt and her staff are wonderful and so knowledgeable.

Kim Paulson

I found the field trip to the Carnegie Library to be very interesting. Marilyn Holt, the keeper of "all things Pennsylvania," was a wealth of knowledge. We probably could have kept her talking and answering our questions for another

hour! The library will have a huge void to fill when she retires! I felt very overwhelmed with all of the information that is available there. I will need to spend much more time organizing my genealogy needs so I can make the best use of my time on future research trips to the library. I was able to find a couple of family items during my time there, so it was time well spent and a very good field trip. Now I won't be intimidated to make the trek myself! Thank you NHG.

Ken Berner

I was pleasantly surprised at the large contingent of participants, and that tables and equipment were reserved for our use. Pennsylvania Department Head, Marilyn Holt, gave her typical excellent introduction to the department's genealogical offerings, punctuated with her unique witticisms . . . and bobbling Irish headdress. As she predicted, our heads were swimming with the impending research possibilities, as well as just where to start when she released us to the collection.

I finally settled on the Pittsburgh Death Notice indexes, 1786–1913; 1963–2000; 2001–present, from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (and its predecessors), to complement some of the pre-1905 Allegheny County birth records I had found there a year ago.

Going through four or five reels of microfilm, starting from the oldest and working forward, I found that in addition to simple images of the old typewritten library catalog cards, there were some that actually had an image of the death notice attached to the card. Certainly, that saved the necessity (but not the adventure) of then going to the referenced *Post-Gazette* microfilm images themselves.

There were a few challenges in reading some of the death notice images, due to poor quality of the microfilming process or just the inconsistent size of the projected images. For this reason, I made note of exactly which films I was viewing, as well as reminder notes of what was on the image, so I could go straight to the newspaper microfilms themselves at a later time. I also took digital pictures of the projected images, even the less than ideal ones, so I could study them more closely at home.

I collected enough information in my four-hour stay to keep me busy for weeks updating missing or incomplete information on my tree, or entering brand new connections that I didn't previously know existed. I can hardly wait for my next visit to the Pennsylvania Department.

Claudia Hickly

Thanks to Carole Ashbridge, a large NHG group participated in the March 15th field trip to the Carnegie Library in Oakland. Dressed in St. Patrick's Day green and hoping to find genealogical gold, we gave our attention to Marilyn Holt, Department Head, who reviewed the Pennsylvania Department collections and library procedures before we started. So much information in such a short time, even though it was informative and entertaining, was overwhelming. But Marilyn promised that all the librarians were there to help us, and she was right about that.

My personal mission was to locate an old book (title unknown) that, according to family legend, included a biography of my paternal great-grandfather Joseph Geyer. However, an elderly cousin said that the pages for J. Geyer had been torn out of the book. I prayed that wasn't true. Using the Biography Collection card catalog, I flipped through each Geyer and miraculously found Joseph! Marilyn Holt produced the reference book for me, *Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania*. I held my breath as I gently turned the old pages to number 196—and there was *Joseph Geyer, Business Man!* The article included a 5x7 photograph and his signature—a big bonus. The article answered many questions I had about his life, including his connection to the Straub Brewing Company (partner) before the company was sold to the Pittsburgh Brewing Company in 1900. This may explain why Hermann Straub's name is on Joseph Geyer's marriage certificate as one of the witnesses! The article also listed Geyer's place of death, which verified family information. Finding a family connection to a brewery as Pittsburgh celebrated St. Patrick's Day seemed like finding the pot o' gold at the end of the rainbow!

After making this incredible find, I searched for maternal ancestors and found three in two different books: *Genealogical and Personal*

History of Western Pennsylvania edited by John W. Jordan and *Pittsburgh of Today, Its Resources and People* by Frank C. Harper. These books included unexpected and extensive information not only about my male ancestors but also about my great-great-great-grandmother's family and the married names of all her children and where they lived as adults—another pot o' gold! Another bonus was socializing with fellow NHG members and picking up research tips from them. This was an exceptionally productive and exciting day of research not likely to be repeated.

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG NEWS

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

FamilySearch.org is a great resource—FREE! If you have not been using FamilySearch.org for your genealogical research, start now. If you HAVE been using FamilySearch.org, remember to check back each month for what new records have been added to the digitized collection.

In last week's press release by FamilySearch, one of the digitized record collections released is the *United States Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. This collection covers the time prior to, during, and after World War I. Currently the *Pension Payment Cards* collection is 80% complete; it is an ongoing project that will be 100% complete very soon.

Because the *United States Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933* collection is being digitized, it is easily searchable. Information on the pension payment cards can include:

- full name of veteran
- military service details
- branch and unit
- date of birth, place of birth, and hometown when enlisted/drafted
- widow's name, if applicable and vital information
- names and vital information about all dependents

I searched for a great-uncle who was “gassed in World War I” according to family lore. The pension card confirmed the story, and it revealed

a new fact: Our WWI veteran great-uncle “Johnny G” had a wife!

When you go to the FamilySearch.org site, also remember to click on the Wiki Search page (https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page). This is an excellent, credible source of information about the locations where your ancestors lived, with an emphasis on the various resources about the residents of that area—local, county, regional, state, or country. FamilySearch.org constantly adds to their searchable collections which can benefit any genealogist.

ONLINE BOOKS: A VALUABLE, LITTLE-USED RESOURCE

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

Digitized books, including e-books, are easy to access online and convenient to use for genealogical research. Perhaps more importantly, the act of digitizing books is an amazing way to preserve the contents in a more permanent format than the print version. Digitized books are systematically photographed, page by page, including the index, table of contents, and other sections. Many online books are searchable, and the results might have the search terms highlighted on the pages. Once a useful passage is located, it is easy to share the findings, sometimes by just sending a hyperlink to the book or page in an email. It is time for genealogists to access online books for researching surnames and individuals, to supplement family information, and for historical content.

Although the terms are used interchangeably, there is a slight difference between a digitized book and an e-book. When accessing a digitized book, researchers view the photographed pages of an actual print book. An e-book implies original content, and in fact, some e-books have never been published in print form. No matter whether viewing an e-book or a digitized book, the navigation is the same. Online books are searchable and can be bookmarked or highlighted. Notes can be added and saved, and passages can be extracted for use in other documents. Books published prior to 1923 are “public domain” texts; therefore there is no need

to worry about copyright infringement. Books published after 1923 are protected by copyright laws. Either way, take the time to cite the source, recording the source citation accurately within your genealogical files. Source citations add credibility to research and provide the information needed to quickly re-locate data.

There are several reliable sites for locating and accessing online books. A few of the sites require the user to log in, using an email address and a password, to access or download free books. Creating a free account allows readers to access more tools; for example, saving titles on a virtual shelf. Some of the sites include free books as well as books for sale. A key suggestion for successful use of online books is to create a list of words, phrases, and names of people and places to efficiently search for books that will support genealogical research.

Listed below are several sites with online books. New titles are added constantly; make it a research habit to return frequently to online book sites to review newly added titles.

Internet Archive

<https://archive.org/index.php>

Hathi Trust Digital Library

<http://www.hathitrust.org/>

Google Books

<http://books.google.com/>

Google Scholar (books and articles)

<http://scholar.google.com/>

WorldCat

<https://www.worldcat.org/>

FamilySearch.org (Click on *Search*; then click on *Books*)

<https://familysearch.org/>

Library of Congress (*American Memory Collection*)

<http://loc.gov/>

Princeton (NJ) Public Library

<http://www.princetonlibrary.org/explore/online-resources/genealogy>

Additional online books can be found on the library sites for some historical and genealogical societies, many universities (Penn State's Pattee Library is great!), and other specialized libraries. Books about local histories, specific families, and centennial or sesquicentennial events are great resources to advance genealogical research.

TRENDING NOW: FIND AND PRESERVE FAMILY LETTERS

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

It is the time of year for spring cleaning and that inevitable glut of yard sales which follows. Unfortunately, sometimes items get thrown into the trash because those items do not appear to be important to some individuals. What types of family papers are stored in your home or the homes of relatives? This year, find those family letters, postcards, and other documents, and preserve them for their treasured content and genealogical clues!

Recently, NHG member Amy Prager received a family letter from her uncle's estate. That letter was written in 1861! The golden brown ink is still very readable, and the text contains dates and places and mentions several family members and events. It also offered confirmation that one name was actually a family member. What a find! Amy is working to decipher every word of the letter to reveal the entire message; she will also scan and digitize the letter while keeping the original document in an archival-safe page protector. This is a great plan that any genealogist could use.

A basic, yet valuable resource for learning how to preserve family letters (and other old documents) is presented by the archivists at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. To learn the best steps for preserving historic letters and postcards, read their brochure at <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/warletters/PreservingYourLetters.pdf>.

Preserving the material—the paper—is, of course, vital; however, genealogists must first locate and/or rescue those family documents. Sometimes a family member is unaware of the value of certain documents and letters that are

stored in an attic. As the family genealogist, you should inquire! Where are the letters and papers from your ancestors? Have you asked to see them, borrow them, or keep them? Does anyone in the family—those “keepers” of the heirlooms and family records—know of your interest? Do those keepers understand the valuable tidbits contained within the family papers? Be sure to communicate your interest in reading and preserving any family document or correspondence. Even a short note on a postcard can reveal genealogical data.

If you find that the content of letters or postcards was written during times of war, there is a more permanent place to preserve your family's correspondence. The Legacy Project, started in 1998, is dedicated to finding, collecting, and preserving letters to and from America's soldiers. There are riveting examples of letters and detailed information on the War Letters website at <http://www.warletters.com>. It is one place where you could share and preserve family correspondence.

When spring cleaning this year, don't toss out attic treasures with the trash. Build in the time to evaluate and save those precious family letters, documents, and postcards to aid in the preservation of your ancestors' lives.

OPEN ACCESS MAPS AT NYPL

Press Release

28 March 2014

[From the news blog of the New York Public Library, <http://www.nypl.org>. The maps described can be accessed through <http://maps.nypl.org/warper>.]

New York – [The Lionel Pincus & Princess Firyal Map Division](#) is very proud to announce the release of more than 20,000 cartographic works as high resolution downloads. We believe these maps have no known US copyright restrictions.* To the extent that some jurisdictions grant NYPL an additional copyright in the digital reproductions of these maps, NYPL is distributing these images under a Creative Commons CCo 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication. The maps can be viewed through the New York Public Library's Digital Collections page, and downloaded (!), through the Map Warper. First, [create an account](#), then click a map

title and go. Here's a [primer](#) and [more extended blog post on the warper](#).

What's this all mean?

It means **you can have the maps, all of them if you want, for free, in high resolution**. We've scanned them to enable their use in the broadest possible ways by the largest number of people.

Though not required, if you'd like to credit the New York Public Library, please use the following text "From The Lionel Pincus & Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library." Doing so helps us track what happens when we release collections like this to the public for free under really relaxed and open terms. We believe our collections inspire all kinds of creativity, innovation and discovery, things the NYPL holds very dear.

A little background on how we got here... We've been scanning maps for about 15 years, both as part of the NYPL's general work but mostly through grant funded projects like the 2001 [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) funded American Shores: Maps of the MidAtlantic to 1850, the 2004 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded [Building a Globally Distributed Historical Sheet Map Set](#) and the 2010 NEH funded [New York City Historical GIS](#).

Through these projects, we've built up a great collection of: 1,100 maps of the Mid-Atlantic United States and cities from the 16th to 19th centuries, mostly drawn from the [Lawrence H. Slaughter Collection](#); a detailed collection of more than 700 [topographic maps of the Austro-Hungarian empire](#) created between 1877 and 1914; a collection of 2,800 maps from [state, county and city atlases](#) (mostly New York and New Jersey); a huge collection of more than 10,300 maps from property, zoning, topographic, but mostly fire insurance atlases of New York City dating from 1852 to 1922; and an incredibly diverse collection of more than 1,000 maps of New York City, its boroughs and neighborhoods, dating from 1660 to 1922, which detail transportation, vice, real estate development, urban renewal, industrial development and pollution, political geography

among many, many other things.

We in the Map Division are all very excited about this release and look forward to seeing these maps in works of art, historical publications, movies, archaeological reports, novels, environmental remediation efforts, urban planning studies and more . . . Enjoy!

* The maps may be subject to rights of privacy, rights of publicity and other restrictions. It is your responsibility to make sure that you respect these rights.

RESEARCH TRIP TO NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND

If you have always wanted to do some research in the archives and libraries of New York or Boston, here's your chance. The members of the North Hills Genealogists have been invited to join with the Lake County, Ohio, Genealogical Society on a research trip from August 18-22, 2014. They have graciously offered a pick-up in Erie for any of our members who would like to accompany them. Information about the trip is available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohlcs/seminars/Boston2014Flyer.pdf>. If you need more details or desire to make reservations, please contact Cynthia Turk at 440-951-0914 or Cynthia.turk@juno.com.

DEPRECIATION LANDS MUSEUM TO HOLD CIVIL WAR EVENTS

The Depreciation Lands Museum in Hampton Township will hold a series of events on the Civil War. Part of the Civil War exhibit created by the Heinz History Center will be on display, with additional items from the local area. The museum will be open extended hours the weekends of April 19th through May 3rd. Several special programs will be presented. These programs are included with a paid admission to the museum. The schedule is:

- 27 April, 2:00 P.M. - Civil War Bonnets
- 3 May, 2:00 P.M. - Civil War weapons demonstration
- 4 May, 2:00 P.M. - "A Civil War Field Drum: In Battle and Beyond"

On May 4th, the museum will also hold a Children's Heritage Day. It will feature stories, games, and activities from the mid-1800s. For more information, please visit <http://www.DepreciationLandsMuseum.org>.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Monday, 21 April 2014, 1:00 P.M. MT. LEBANON GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Jay Shock will present "Church and Cemetery Records: A Complement to Online Research" at the next meeting. The group meets in Meeting Room A on the lower level of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Pittsburgh. The meeting is free and open to the public. More information is available at <http://mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society>.

Wednesday, 23 April 2014, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

The program for the next Cranberry meeting will be a recorded presentation by Lisa Alzo. Her topic will be "Genealogy Goals: How to Set Them, How to Meet Them". The free event will be held in the meeting room of the Cranberry Public Library, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township. For more information, please visit <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

24-26 April 2014 LANCASTER MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This year's theme is *Family History through Photographs: Daguerreotypes to Digital*. Saturday features more than fifteen lectures to choose from. The first two days consist of field trips and small group discussions, all of which are an additional fee. For more information, please visit http://www.lmhs.org/Home/Events/History_Conference.

30 April-3 May 2014 OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio. A variety of lectures and workshops will be offered over three and a half days. The speakers will include Mark Lowe, CG, Debbie Abbott, Ph.D., George Morgan, Drew Smith, Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, Craig Scott, CG, Lisa Alzo, Judy Russell, CG, CGL, and more. For more information, please visit <http://www.genex2014.org>.

Saturday, 3 May 2014, 8:00 A.M. PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF PALATINES TO AMERICA

The Pennsylvania Chapter of Pal Am will hold their conference on the Kutztown University campus. The speakers will include Jonathan Stayer of the Pennsylvania State Archives, David Haugaard of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Frederick Sheeler of the Berks County Record of Deeds Office. Pre-registration is required for this event. Registrations must be postmarked by 24 April. For more information, please visit <http://www.palam.org>.

7-10 May 2014 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held in the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia. The theme is *Virginia: The First Frontier*. Over 200 lectures on a wide variety of topics will be given during the conference. A free camp for youth will be held on May 10th. Separate registration for the youth camp is required. There is also the opportunity to watch some of the sessions from your home. For more information and a conference registration form, visit <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Saturday, 7 June 2014 10:00 A.M. JOHNSTOWN FLOOD 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, the

Johnstown Area Heritage Association, and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College will co-sponsor an event on the flood. Watch <http://www.genpa.org> for more information.

17–22 June 2014
ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES CONFERENCE

This year's event will be held at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana. Classroom sessions, a walking tour, a bus tour, and field work in cemeteries will be featured. Room and board at the college is available as an option when registering for the conference. The program schedule and more information is available at <https://www.gravestonestudies.org>.

Saturday, 21 June 2014, 9:00 A.M.
ROOTSTECH PITTSBURGH FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Plans are being finalized for Rootstech Pittsburgh, including live presentations and recorded lectures. NHG member Roberta (Bobby) Egelston will present her lecture on her experiences visiting some ancestral villages in Bavaria and Bohemia and what she did before the trip. The event will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building at 250 North Dithridge Street in Oakland. Watch <http://rootstechpittsburgh.org> for updates.

Saturday, 21 June 2014, 8:30 A.M.
CIAO ITALIAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The Cleveland Italian Ancestry Organization and the Consulate of Italy in Detroit are co-sponsoring this event at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. The event will feature two tracts of lectures on Italian genealogical research. The speakers will be Paola Manfredi, AG, and Suzanne Russo Adams, AG. An optional walking tour of the Little Italy section of Cleveland that evening will cost an extra fee. Visit <http://www.whrs.org> for more information.

25–28 June 2014
PALATINES TO AMERICA

Pal Am will hold their annual conference at the Ramada Plaza Columbus North Hotel & Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. The theme is “The Road to Your German Ancestors.” The speakers will include Roger Minert, Ken Smith, Lisa Long, Jenni Salamon, and Robert Rau. More information and a registration form are available at <http://www.palam.org>.

20–25 July 2014
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for GRIP is now open. Intensive classes will be taught by leaders in the field (including several past NHG conference speakers). Some of the classes are full, but waiting lists are available. The institute will be held at La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh. In addition to the classes, there will be evening lectures that are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit <http://www.gripitt.org>.

1–2 August 2014
MIDWESTERN ROOTS

The Indiana Historical Society is sponsoring Midwestern Roots, which will be held at the Marriott East in Indianapolis. Registration for the conference is open. The theme is *Exploring Frontiers: What Would Your Pioneer Ancestors Have Tweeted?* The speakers will include Warren Bittner, CG, Lisa Louise Cook, Amy Johnson Crow, CG, Thomas MacEntee, Curt Witcher, and more. For more information, please visit <http://www.indianahistory.org>.

15–17 August 2014
INSTITUTE FOR GENETIC GENEALOGY

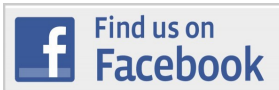
The first international genetic genealogy conference will be held in Washington, DC, this August. Spend two and a half days learning about the use of DNA in genealogical research. The event will be held at the National 4-H Youth Center in Washington, DC. Lodging and meals will be available at the center. For more information, please visit <http://i4gg.org>.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Pennsylvania

Thomas White

Author and historian Thomas White will discuss the legends and folklore of western Pennsylvania, demonstrating how they reflect the history and evolving culture of our region. Hear the story of the whispering dead beneath the Black Cross, the phantoms of Pittsburgh's steel mills, and more.

NHG Members

Join us as we gather in small groups based on geographical regions and research methods for guidance and help by members. Bring your notebooks and pens to take notes and ask questions on areas you are researching and databases you are utilizing. We will switch groups partway through the meeting so everyone can learn about multiple topics.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 15 April 2014 **ORPHANAGE RECORDS**

Jessie Ramey, Ph.D.

Ramey will speak to us about her book, *Child Care in Black and White: Working Parents and the History of Orphanages*. It tells the story of families who used orphanages as an early form of childcare in times of family crisis, at the turn of the 20th century, from sources of interest to genealogists.