



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

FINDING AIDS FOR PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-editor

Eager to access genealogical data from a new resource to enhance your family history? Besides the well-known and often used [Cyndi's List](#), there are also websites dedicated to genealogical information that is specific to Pennsylvania. One great web page is located on the site for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, offering genealogists a list of hyperlinked websites where one might obtain new information.

To access the website's links, first go to this page: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/about_the_archives/3177/additional_research_sites/382913. A good place to start is near the middle of the list with either the sections titled *Pennsylvania Genealogy Sites*, *Pennsylvania Historical and Genealogical Societies*, or *Libraries*. Each of the sites listed has information valuable to genealogical researchers.

It takes time to search each link, but a helpful reminder for researchers is this: once you click on any website, immediately locate the customized search bar which is set up to search everything on that one web page. In this way, you can save time from clicking multiple links that sometimes lead nowhere.

Another site that offers links to more information is called Pennsylvania Records and is affiliated with RootsWeb: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parecs/>.

There are five main categories of Pennsylvania information, titled: *Pennsylvania Biographies*, *Pennsylvania Military Records*, *Pennsylvania Maps*, *Passenger Lists to Pennsylvania*, and *Pennsylvania Vital Records*. Each database begins with an overview of the types of records

and suggestions for accessing those records. If the records are indexed, that process is also described.

A third free database online is simply called *Pennsylvania Genealogy* with an emphasis on historical records of PA. This site is found here: <http://www.pennsylvania-genealogy.net/Pennsylvania-Historical-Records.cfm>. This list of sites can seem overwhelming. To start, check out the gazetteers, ethnic records, and records by county.

A favorite of experienced genealogists is a section of the website for the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) that is found at <http://genpa.org>. There are several ways to search the GSP collections, including inserting a year range, keywords, or any name(s). From this site genealogists may also search by Pennsylvania County. GSP does a great job of maintaining an up-to-date site with information about newly available records and what type of data can be found in those records.

A final reminder: return monthly to helpful websites to determine when, and how often, new records and data are added. If there is a free option to sign up to receive updates, do so. The best news is that every month, more and more historical records of use to genealogists are being digitized, and hopefully even indexed, on the Internet. Keep searching!

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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 am writing this column from the road, having just attended my first-ever family reunion. It took place in Twin Falls, Idaho. My mother's cousin, Helen, a spry 87 year old woman, has been trying to organize a reunion for her Thomas family (my maternal grandmother's family) for several years without success. Our family only comes together for weddings and funerals, and then only if the event is "in the neighborhood," which is mostly Washington state.

Bill, another cousin to Helen and my mother, passed away this past January. His body was cremated, but a plaque was placed in his honor in the family cemetery in Shoshone, Idaho. So Helen and two of Bill's children decided that they were going to hold a memorial service for Bill at the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend and encouraged everyone who was descended from Bill's grandfather and namesake, William Sanford Thomas, to attend.

This reunion was rather disorganized, to my mind. Bill's children and Helen had independent ideas and didn't communicate well (which we later agreed were typical Thomas traits). The only fixed activities were the "service" at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, followed by a family dinner at 5:00 P.M. (later changed to 6:00 P.M.) that evening. Bill's daughter independently reserved a conference room all weekend at the hotel where most were staying, and she encouraged people to bring history books, photo albums, etc., to share. That became a central meeting place where different people came and went at all hours. The memorial service itself, later downgraded to a "remembrance," actually became a sort of milling around with no formal program (this branch of the family is not particularly religious).

But the reunion was a great success! Descendants of all four of William Sanford Thomas's children attended, coming from as far away as Florida, Texas, Colorado, California, and the two of us from Pittsburgh. People chatted constantly in different groups with cousins they had not seen in decades (or in the case of younger generations, had never met). Different groups got together Saturday afternoon and evening in the conference room and at the bar. There were about sixty people at the Sunday dinner. The young cousins

sat together at one table and bonded while simultaneously checking their smart phones. Bill's son put together a ten-minute photo montage of his father's life, which he played after dinner. I then delivered a slide show of family history that Bill's son and I had prepared. I kept it simple: just the direct Thomas line from William Sanford, back four generations, heavy with maps and old photographs (and no references). I wanted to whet people's appetite for family history, and I think I succeeded. People came up afterward and wanted copies of pictures and more details. I collected all of their contact information. I think I am committed to putting together a book.

Whereas some family reunions are heavy on scheduled activities, others, like mine, sort of wing it, the opportunity to get together and spend time with family members and trade stories and tall tales is highly worthwhile. I encourage everyone to figure out how to "trap" your family into having a reunion.

~ Dave

NHG REMINDERS

Don't forget to hand in your ballot for our election. The ballot was in the May newsletter. We will have extra copies at the June meeting. Ballots are due by 30 June. If you won't be at the meeting, mail your ballot to NHG, PO Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090.

Sharon Cimoch will have a sign-up sheet for our July field trip to the Heinz History Center at the June meeting. Join us for a tour of the new exhibit on the steamship *Arabia*, which was built and outfitted in Pittsburgh. If you plan to go, please let Sharon know so we have an accurate head count. If you won't be at the June meeting, send an e-mail to info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org to sign up.

NHG MAY PROGRAM REVIEWED

By Ken Berner, NHG Membership Chair, with contributions from Dave Williams and Amy Arner

Thomas White, during his 20 May 2014 presentation to the NHG entitled "Legends and Folklore of Western Pennsylvania," asked his audience to consider what "ghost stories" tell us

about people and the community in which they live. He also asked us to consider what these stories tell us about how people remember history.

White, a former archivist at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, is currently the University Archivist and Curator of Special Collections in the Gumberg Library at Duquesne University, where he also received his Master's Degree in Public History. He lives in the North Hills with his wife and children and is an adjunct lecturer in Duquesne's history department, as well as an adjunct professor of history at LaRoche College.

His interest in public history and American cultural history has driven his research in legends, lore, and ghost stories. He was quoted in a newspaper profile as saying, "Legends have a 'half-life,' and some legends tend to disappear. I want to record a lot of those before they do."

And record them, he has. Among the works White has authored, some available on Amazon.com, are *Legends and Lore of Western Pennsylvania*, *Forgotten Tales of Pennsylvania*, *Ghosts of Southwestern Pennsylvania*, *Forgotten Tales of Pittsburgh*, and *Forgotten Tales of Philadelphia* (co-authored with Edward White). Another book is due to be published shortly.

While trying to capture the lore before it disappears, he pointed out that many of the ghost stories that still persist from the 1800s tend to be about women, African Americans, or immigrants—all populations not usually well-represented in standard history. So, for many, the stories can be a striking way to recall unwritten history and lessons that may actually have some basis in fact, but that might otherwise be lost over time.

Legends, particularly urban legends, in contrast to traditional ghost stories, White pointed out, tend to carry warnings regarding societal fears. He promptly cited some examples within a mile or two of our meeting place.

One was the story of a "ghost nun" walking around the pond along Babcock Boulevard, on the campus of nearby LaRoche College. The story claims that she drowned in the pond and continues to walk the area. The truth, found in convent records, is that a Divine Providence nun

on campus had a heart attack, died, and fell into the pond. A driver on the adjacent highway saw her floating in the water and attempted to rescue her, but it was too late. The incident happened in 1949, before LaRoche College's formation in 1953, but it became the basis of a ghost story that current students still repeat.

White also drew us to ghost stories surrounding Blue Mist Road (Irwin Lane), an unused five-mile road, blocked off at both ends, that runs through Allegheny County's North Park. A simple Google search on Blue Mist (or Mist) Road will reveal many of the stories, including a locally produced series of short re-enactment videos. Attendees, who were familiar with the locale, confirm that the largely uninhabited area is unsettling, even in the daylight. So, it's long been fertile land for ghost stories.

The blue mist, supposedly generated from an oil well drilled near a picnic area, moves into the area at night, stirring stories of multiple murders in nearby dilapidated housing, and fearful imaginings of the roadside Ku Klux Klan "hanging tree." None of the storied events has ever been proven, but the legends can be useful to parents attempting to discourage their teens from seeking out the area as a lover's lane.

For those seeking more enlightenment on how their ancestors reacted to, and learned from, the lore and legend of their times, be aware that Thomas White will "reappear" in the same meeting area about this same time next year. Stay tuned.

TRENDING NOW: CAPTURING THE STORIES OF THE SOLDIERS IN YOUR FAMILY

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

The 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion during World War II was commemorated a week ago on 6 June 2014. The median age of WWII vets who are still living is 94. How many of your family members or ancestors served during WWII? What do you know about their service?

The beginning of August 2014 will mark the

100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Historians record WWI as beginning on 28 July 1914, when Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Within ten days, six more countries joined the warring ranks. No known veterans of WWI are still alive; some of the youngest known people who served near the end of WWI died between 2009 and 2012. Were the memories and stories of your WWI veterans captured for future generations? It may not be too late if you have other artifacts.

The urgent importance of preserving the stories and memories of relatives has been trending in genealogy for more than a year. These stories and memories so greatly enhance the typical vital statistics collected by genealogists that entire conferences have promoted ancestors' stories as the theme. Accessing and using primary sources of information means that a researcher extracts data from a first-hand account of a time period or event. Commonly used primary source documents include photos, reports, letters, diaries, and newspaper articles. Yet, interviewing any eyewitness to history or other events (such as a family wedding) is a type of primary source that can benefit any genealogists.

When interviewing family members about memorable life events, please keep in mind that if the person to whom you are speaking is creative or humorous, he or she might exaggerate a story. An older relative might even forget some key facts or combine two different events into one. However, the majority of the time, older relatives recount past family events or personal experiences with accuracy and fond observations based on reflections of the family's history. You can always verify the facts of a story or memory elsewhere.

More likely, the older relatives in a family, especially those who lived during times in history such as WWII, will not talk at all. What can you do to interview older family members who refuse to discuss the past?

Here are some suggestions:

1. **Do not ask a barrage of questions. Get the stories flowing instead.** Try prompting a relative with something like: "Tell me again about where you were during Pearl Harbor." Or, start to re-tell a

story that has previously been revealed (even if second-hand), and then say, “I can never remember what happened next.”

2. **Get two people of the same generation to converse. Listen intently and actively. Take notes.** At several recent weddings for younger cousins, I would bring up someone or an event and then encourage my mother and my aunt, sisters born four years apart, to retell what they remember. It is very interesting to note that anytime a genealogist can get two people to discuss the same event or person with each other, you hear extra valuable information. Why? Two perspectives combine with two personal memories to flesh out the full story. For example, one sibling might know the result of what happened, while another knows the cause.
3. **If a question and answer session is best for you, then pre-plan the questions. Be flexible.** A great journalist plans and organizes questions, but then during the interview, the reporter lets the story lead the way, thinking of follow-up questions based on the content of the evolving conversation. The worst thing you can do when a private, or reluctant, relative starts to tell stories is to interrupt and try to get that person back to your train of thought with your pre-planned queries. Allow the story or memory to be revealed by the speaker naturally.
4. **Use a photo or other visual aid to spark memory.** Any image can stimulate the memory of family members. Memories start with a person or event, and expand to include cause and effect, other people, viewpoints and commentary, or the recounting of living through the historic era.

After interviewing, make time as soon after as possible to read over your notes or listen back to your recording. Write down any questions you still have. Add your own insight or observations, such as “Netta lit up with a smile when she told me about the letters that Dave mailed to her during WWII.”

If the family member you interview has vague stories or memories, or if they are reluctant to discuss the past just providing a few facts, then gather whatever tidbits you can, and use other sources to fill in the details. Access digitized newspapers from a relative’s hometown to extract facts, and maybe even include editorial opinions. Collect headlines to create a time line of events for WWI or WWII. Scan family photos and use secondary sources such as U. S. federal census records or the Pennsylvania death certificates recently digitized online to further research the ancestor or relative.

If your family has a stack of letters exchanged between a WWI or WWII soldier and loved ones at home, take the time to read the correspondence and extract quotes and facts. Letters were written at the time of an event and are therefore, primary sources—highly credible research data! Ask the relatives who keep all of the family papers and albums if you can have access. It was common for soldiers and nurses during WWI and WWII to keep journals or diaries of their experiences. These personal narratives are another primary source of family history.

Lastly, use historic books, websites, and experts to gather details to enrich the stories told by your relatives. With the historic anniversaries of WWII’s D-Day and the start of WWI, there is a wealth of easily accessible information online, and also in magazines, newspapers, and books.

Voices of WWII, in conjunction with the Friends of the National WWII Memorial, is preserving the stories of all veterans of WWII. Many of the stories are videotaped interviews conducted and submitted by students or family members. You can browse, search, and view videos to draw your own inspiration for preserving the memories and stories of your family’s veterans on the website <http://www.wiimemorialfriends.org/voices-of-wwii/video>. Sometimes the child of a WWI or WWII veteran has often heard the stories and can retell them for younger generations.

There is a fascinating collection of before and after photos of famous sites from the 20th century wars matched with the same locations today. The *Guardian News* has this collection on its United States site:

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/series/photography-then-and-now>. View a vintage photo and read the accompanying caption; then click in the middle of the photo to see the same location in a different time. You could apply this to your own genealogical research by selecting ancestral photos that are identified with a location, and then take a photo of that same location today, or locate a similar photo online. This can add visual impact to the stories and memories of your relatives.

Capture the stories of your family's soldiers and of relatives who lived through war times. Record the details revealed, and add depth through history. Preserving these stories and memories is vital for creating the most interesting genealogy of your family.

GENEALOGICAL SPELLING TEST

By Mary Dzurichko, NHG Program Chair

I have a list of spelling variations for my surname that I use when searching online databases. Some of the variations: Dzuričko is Slovak, Dzuricsko is Hungarian, Dzurichko is American phonetic, and Durisko and Drisko are American phonetic versions of mispronouncing the Hungarian spelling.

Recently, I had to expand my list while searching the Pennsylvania Death Certificates on Ancestry.com. Most were spelled incorrectly in the index due to the difficulty in reading the handwriting on the original documents, such as Dzuriesko and Dzuncsko. One of the variations I am attributing to the level of literacy of the ancestor's father who wrote the information on the original certificate, including his own signature: John Dzurisko.

If you are new to genealogy research, or are hitting a lot of dead ends when searching online, perhaps you need to expand your circle of name spelling variants. On this single database, which currently is only digitized for the period 1906 through 1924, I came across ten new variations, several of which I probably wouldn't think of myself (Dzurichko, Dezuricsko). To find other possible spellings of your surnames, try using the wild card search feature in different places of your name. For example, I would use Dzu*,

Dzuri*, and D*ricko. If you type in a full name without the wild card, do not use the "exact" option.

If the results are too numerous, limit them in other ways, such as birth dates, location, or record type. Most importantly, keep a handy reference list of the spelling variations of your ancestors' surnames among your genealogical tools and notes.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? STARTS JULY 23RD

The fifth season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* starts July 23rd on TLC at 9:00 P.M. Eastern. The featured celebrities will include Cynthia Nixon, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Rachel McAdams and sister Kayleen McAdams, Valerie Bertinelli, Kelsey Grammer, and Lauren Graham.

You can watch clips from last season's episodes online at <http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are>. Clips from some of the episodes that originally aired on NBC are also available on the same site.

FIRST ANNUAL ROOTSTECH FAMILY HISTORY DAY ANNOUNCED FOR JUNE 21 IN PITTSBURGH

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-editor

The First Annual Pittsburgh RootsTech Family History Day will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014, starting at 9:00 A.M. at the Oakland YSA Building, 250 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh 15221. The Oakland YSA Building is located on North Dithridge between Bayard Street and Centre Avenue. RootsTech Pittsburgh is a one-day genealogy conference, offered free to the general public, and sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and FamilySearch.org.

Interested genealogists are invited to Pittsburgh's RootsTech Family History Day; a wide variety of programs will be offered all day for beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogical researchers. Advance registration is requested due to limited space for this free event. To register, sign up at LDS/Family History Fair. If

you attend Pittsburgh's RootsTech Family History Day, you can participate in the full day of events, or make your own schedule for just part of the day. Refer to the *Class Schedule* link at <http://rootstechpittsburgh.org> for specific times and topics throughout the day.

Participants will be able to choose up to five one-hour sessions on a variety of topics, with seven workshop choices each session plus the Internet café, which will be offered during every session. At the Internet café, those in attendance will work with numerous expert volunteers who will offer guidance for experienced researchers with brick walls as well as encouraging hints for beginning genealogists.

Speakers for Pittsburgh's RootsTech Family History Day include some nationally recognized names and four local Pittsburghers: Lorrie Danko Guthrie, Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, Judy Baker, and NHG's **Roberta (Bobby) Riethmiller Egelston**. Topic highlights for the 35 offered workshops include ethnic research from various countries of origin, use of social media, church records, online database use with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, finding war veterans and their records, and genealogical records in Western Pennsylvania.

Time for lunch is scheduled between 11:45 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Attendees may either bring their own lunch, or visit one of several local sandwich shops to purchase lunch. It is also suggested that you bring your own snack.

It is a rare treat to be able to attend a free genealogical event such as Pittsburgh's RootsTech Family History Day on June 21st. If you do attend, you are encouraged to bring your own laptop or tablet to access the free Wi-Fi at the center. If you have any questions prior to this event, e-mail the organizers at rootstechpittsburgh@gmail.com.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 18 June 2014, 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORY CENTER

The next meeting will feature a webinar entitled

"Preserving Your Personal Digital Memories." The center is located in the Beaver Train Station, 250 East End Avenue, Beaver. The meeting is free and open to the public. Please visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs> for more information and a map showing the entrance to the center and parking.

Thursday, 19 June 2014, 6:00 P.M. EVANS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

NHG Newsletter Co-editor Sue Ennis will present a beginner's class at the library. The title is "How to Start with Genealogy." The library's address is 204 South Jackson Street, 16033. Please visit <http://www.bcfls.org/evans-city-public-library> for more information.

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. Lorrie Danko Guthrie, director of the Green Tree Family History Center, and Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, head of the Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Department, will also be speaking. 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 tracks 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.

Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 6:30 P.M.
CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

The program for the next Cranberry meeting will be a tour of the Cranberry Family History Center. There will be a short business meeting in the Relief Society Room of the Church of Latter-day Saints building, 2771 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, before the group walks across the hall to the FHC. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

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>.

Thursday, 17 July 2014, 7:00 P.M.
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Melissa Johnson will present “Digital Tools for Research Planning” as the next GSP webinar. The event is free for GSP members and \$10.00 for non-members. You can watch the webinar from the comfort of your own home. Visit <http://www.genpa.org> for more information and to register.

20–25 July 2014
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for GRIP is open until 30 June. Intensive classes will be taught by leaders in the field (including several past NHG conference speakers). Seats are available in the Intermediate Genealogy, Becoming an Online Expert, and Finding and Documenting African American Families classes. The institute will be held at LaRoche 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>.

27 July–1 August 2014
IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

This year's conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. In addition to attending the conference in person, there is an option to watch some sessions virtually. More information is available at <http://conference.iajgs.org/2014>.

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>.

18–22 August 2014
RESEARCH TRIP TO NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND

The Lake County, Ohio, chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is sponsoring a bus trip to New York and New England. The registration deadline is 7 July. More information and a registration form are available at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohlcs/seminars/Boston2014Flyer.pdf>. If you need more details or want to make reservations, please contact Cynthia Turk at 440-951-0914 or Cynthia.turk@juno.com.

**27–30 August 2014
FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETIES ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

This year's conference will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The theme is "Gone to Texas." Registration is open. The conference features lectures in more than a dozen tracks. Some of the tracks include methodology, Texas and neighboring states, technology, writing, and ethnic origins. For more information and a blog about the latest conference news, please visit <https://www.fgsconference.org>.

**Saturday, 27 September 2014, 9:00 A.M.
WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

The speaker for the WRHS Genealogical Committee's Fall Seminar will be Claire Bettag, CG, FUGA. She will present four lectures: "NARA at Your Fingertips", "Federal Land Records", "Bounty Land Records", and "Government Documents and the U.S. Serial Set." For more information, please visit <http://www.wrhs.org>.

**Saturday, 4 October 2014, 9:00 A.M.
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The speaker for OGS's Fall Seminar will be D. Joshua Taylor. He was the NHG Fall Conference speaker in 2012. Taylor will present the following lectures: "Beyond Belief: The Wealth of Genealogical and Historical Societies", "Online Resources: New England", "Mapping Your Success: Employing Maps for Genealogical Research", and "New Tools and Ideas in Research." The event will be held at the Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center, 1000 Comfort Plaza Drive, Bellville, OH. For more information and a registration for, please visit <http://www.ogs.org/fallseminar2014.php>.

NHG MEMBERSHIP FORM

The annual fee for membership in NHG remains \$15.00 for two people in a household. The new membership year starts 1 August. To ensure you don't miss an issue of the newsletter, please send in your renewal form by 31 August. To pay by cash or check, fill out the form below and mail it to North Hills Genealogists, PO Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090 or bring it to a meeting. To pay with a credit card, please visit our website <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 22 July 2014 **Evaluating Websites**

Cyndi Ingle

Ingle is the force behind CyndisList.com. Since its founding, several things have changed, while many things have stayed the same. How can you know whether what you find online is accurate and reliable? We'll discuss how to delve into online datasets and determine the original source of the materials, and then how to evaluate the material you find there. Note this meeting will be held at LaRoche College, not Northland Library.

Tuesday, 19 August 2014 **Searching S.M.A.R.T.**

Susan Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-editor

Susan Ennis, a teacher and librarian, will review techniques that genealogists can use for more effective searching on the Internet. Using search engines, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and the websites of the USGenWeb Project, she will demonstrate ways to discover the results you need to make progress in your genealogical research. Join us as we search S.M.A.R.T.!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 17 June 2014 **SMALL GROUP RESEARCH GUIDANCE AND HELP**

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.