



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

## NHG JUNE MEETING PLANS ANNOUNCED

Ten-to-one odds are good, and that's what you'll have at June's Small Group Research Guidance program. We're trying something new. We'll divide into groups based on topic. The groups will be limited to ten participants for each expert, providing personal help. Topics covered by experienced NHG members include Beginning Genealogy, Evidence Analysis, Citing Sources, Organization, DNA, Technology, Research in Repositories, and German, Irish, Welsh, Slovak, Basic English, Basic Italian, and Pennsylvania Research. Participants will shift groups twice during the meeting to take advantage of three learning opportunities. Come prepared with your list of preferred topics and questions. Bring your notebooks and pens to capture your newly acquired research information. Hope you can join us while we try something new!

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## NHG ANNOUNCES SUMMER AND FALL 2014 FIELD TRIPS

*By Sharon Cimoch, NHG Member*

Two new field trips have been arranged for July and September 2014. First, on Saturday, July 12th, NHG will be hopping aboard the largest time capsule of pre-Civil War items ever discovered as part of "Pittsburgh's Lost Steamboat: Treasures of the Arabia".

The "Pittsburgh's Lost Steamboat: Treasures of the Arabia" traveling exhibit is presently at the Senator John Heinz History Center and features nearly 2,000 perfectly-preserved artifacts that were salvaged from the locally made steamboat *Arabia* which sank in the Missouri River in 1856. Over the years, the river changed its course, leaving the boat below the water table under 45 feet of soil and helping to preserve its contents in an anaerobic (oxygen-free) environment for

more than 100 years.

Artifacts retrieved from the vessel included everything necessary to start a homestead in the newly opened western frontier: guns, farming tools, housewares, clothing, and cooking implements. Also found were bottles of perfume, oak barrels filled with premium-grade Kentucky Bourbon whiskey, and beads and other goods for trade with the Indians.

This is a trip you don't want to miss. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May and June NHG meetings so that we can get an accurate headcount of History Center members and non-members attending. The cost for non-member adults will be \$10.00 and \$9.00 for seniors, to be paid in advance. Everyone is to meet at the entrance by 10:30 A.M. on July 12th.

The second field trip will be on Saturday, September 27th to Old Economy Village in Ambridge. The topic featured that weekend will be "Fabrics of Our Lives" concentrating on learning about how clothing was made in the past. Volunteers will demonstrate the use of spinning wheels, looms, carders, and other interesting means of making the fabrics needed for everyday use.

Be sure to mark your calendars for both dates and look for more details in future newsletters.

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## NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2013–2014

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<b>Indexing Project Chair:</b>	Sharon Cimoch

### For more information:

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### Newsletter ideas and feedback:

[Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

## 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

This column is both an exhortation and a book review. The exhortation first:

We all know (at least intellectually) that we must document our findings. We do this so that we do not repeat the same research next year and so that the people who follow us do not have to later redo that research to verify our findings. However it is sometimes difficult, in the heat of the hunt, to pause, review, and copy completely the references in which we are finding relevant information. We may not record the information to the detail of the Board for Certification of Genealogists “specification,” as defined by Elizabeth Shown Mills in *Evidence: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* and others, but we strive to define our sources in enough detail so others, as well as ourselves, can later follow that discovery path.

This often seems to be a burden, but I suggest that it is the bare minimum we should strive for in writing our family history. I further suggest that there is almost as much difference between not documenting and adequately documenting as there is between adequate documentation and true scholarship.

Which leads me to the book review:

My high school classmate and friend, Bob Webb, who passed away late last year, published a biography in 2005 entitled *Sailor-Painter: The Uncommon Life of Charles Robert Patterson*. Patterson was born 18 July 1878 near Carlisle, England, and died 11 November 1958 in New York City, roughly the same lifespan as my great-grandfather, William Sanford Thomas.

Although he was a well-known painter of sailing ships, and wrote in great detail about those ships as well as corresponding with patrons and sea captains alike, almost nothing was known about Charles Patterson’s personal life, a situation Bob strove to rectify. He made contact with almost all of Patterson’s living relatives, not just his descendants, but also the descendants of his siblings, in seven countries on four continents, and corresponded with most of them. He badgered repositories and archives and collectors in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain (over 50 are listed) to provide information

that they might have about his subject. He consulted the *New York Maritime Register* and *Lloyd's List*, among other sources, to trace the paths of all of the ships Patterson served on as a sailor during his teenage years. When there was no biographical data, he described the duties of that particular class of sailor on that particular type of ship. His genealogy began with Patterson's grandparents on both sides, and later traced his life and work almost day to day. The result is a detailed study of the man, the era, and the experiences that shaped him, not to mention the nautical transformation of sea transport from wooden-hulled sailing ships to steel-hulled steamships during that period.

It is not only the factual detail provided, but also the writing style that defines a scholarly piece of work. There is more to writing than just the perfunctory regurgitation of facts. It is okay to add family stories and speculation, as long as it is clear what you are doing.

I do not suggest that we need to write a three hundred page tome for every one of our ancestors. But I propose that we ought to pick out a significant person from each generation, not necessarily a direct ancestor, and delve into the detail of that person's life, and the history and culture and economic factors that shaped that life, in more detail than usual. Yes, that will require more research, including reading state and county histories and numerous newspaper articles, but I believe it is well worth the effort to provide your descendants an exemplary view of your family's history.

**The book:** Robert Lloyd Webb, *Sailor-Painter: The Uncommon Life of Charles Robert Patterson* (Mystic, Connecticut: Flat Hammock Press, 2005). ISBN 0-9758699-1-4.

~ Dave

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## ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

*By Carole Ashbridge, NHG Social Media Chair*

There are many avenues that we can follow to get news about North Hills Genealogists and the larger genealogy community. One is to access the North Hills Genealogists website ([www.northhillsgenealogists.org](http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org)). Here you find information on upcoming programs, the fall

conference, cemetery indices, and links to genealogy websites, to name a few features.

For interesting stories, news about genealogy resources, our events, and ways to help your research, you can **like** us on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/NorthHillsGenealogists>). However, recently Facebook has changed its algorithm (a fancy name for rules for sorting or calculating), so that just liking us ONCE does not grant you everything that we post. In order to get the NHG news updates in YOUR feeds, you need to **like** the POSTS that we make. The more you like NHG, the more updates you will receive. We don't want you to miss the information that we share, so a little like now and then will get news delivered to you.

For breaking news and time sensitive matters, Twitter (<https://twitter.com/NHGenealogists>) is the place to be. We share special deals on books or database options, new additions to genealogical resources, and current happenings from the genealogy community at large.

There are very active genealogy boards on Pinterest that will help you organize your favorite sites or collect information on a particular topic. North Hills Genealogists has a board (<http://www.pinterest.com/NHGenealogists>) and you can **follow** us there as we add great websites from these communities. This board contains many of our website links, and if you **follow** us on Pinterest, you will be notified automatically when a new link is added.

Our social media pages exist to help you further your skills and access to genealogical information and events. **Like** and **follow** us so you don't miss anything!

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## NHG APRIL PROGRAM REVIEWED

*By Mary Dzurichko, NHG Program Chair*

April's interesting presentation was by Dr. Jessie Ramey on the research she performed for her award-winning book *Child Care in Black and White: Working Parents and the History of Orphanages*. The focus of the book was the use of orphanages as an early form of childcare at the turn of the 20th century. The children placed in these homes were mostly from single-parent

families due to the death of one parent. Ramey closely researched two facilities in the North Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh, then Allegheny City, over a 50-year period. She found that the children resided at the orphanages for one to two years on average. The ages were mostly between three and eight because children older than eight were able to care for the youngest children at home. There were twice as many boys as girls in these homes, as employment as maids was much in demand for girls, but the only work for boys would have been labor jobs in local factories that was too strenuous for young boys. The parent paid fees for the room and board of their children but often negotiated when and how much to pay, as well as admissions and dismissals. For example, children of school age stayed until the end of the school year.

More information on Dr. Ramey and the book and where to purchase it (both paper and Kindle editions) can be found at the website <http://childcareinblackandwhite.wordpress.com/>.

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## TRENDING NOW: RESEARCHING WITHIN THE DIGITIZED PENNSYLVANIA DEATH CERTIFICATES, 1906–1924

*By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor*

The recently digitized Pennsylvania death certificates from 1906–1924 are available and searchable online. Although the stark reality of early 20th century life and death are delineated in the Pennsylvania death certificates, there is much value in these primary source documents for adding credible data to your family research.

Background: On December 15, 2011, Governor Tom Corbett signed [Senate Bill 361](#). In part, it states, “This bill amends the Act of June 29, 1953 (P.L. 304, No. 66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, to provide for public access to certain birth and death certificates after a fixed amount of time has passed. This legislation provides that such documents become public records 105 years after the date of birth or 50 years after the date of death.” For full details, go to the Pennsylvania State

Archives website:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183/vital\\_statistics/387291](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183/vital_statistics/387291)

The Pennsylvania death certificates are indexed and searchable through Ancestry.com and the Pennsylvania State Archives. There is a small learning curve about how to find the right ancestor, especially those with common surnames, however it is well worth your dedicated research time. A bonus is that you will view the actual written or typed certificate!

Of the 29 death certificates that I located for my ancestors, several key relationships were proven, and one disproven, and the detailed information—provided by an immediate family member in most cases—was quite thorough. For the first ten minutes, I enthusiastically jumped from name to name within the database, without a plan and with few results. Then I took a few minutes to read the overview of this record group to understand how to search more efficiently. With a renewed focus, I concentrated on the span of years: 1906–1924. I started with what I knew for sure. For example, did any of my eight great-grandparents die during that span of years? One of them, **Esther Louvina Mason Ennis** had died between 1920 and 1930, but that was all that I knew. So I began with that.

Keep in mind that an ancestor’s name might be misspelled in the index and/or on the death certificate form. An **Ester Marsha Ennis** popped up in the results, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Yes, it WAS my great-grandmother. The handwriting on the form looked exactly like her actual name, not the misspelled version, but of course it was a familiar name to me. The informant was my 19-year-old grandfather, her son, **Harry S. Ennis, Jr.** His handwriting was well known to me from childhood, so that was my first confirmation. There was much more!

Here is a brief summary of the data written on her death certificate: Mrs. Ester Mason Ennis was born 2 October 1879 in Central Park, New York City. At the time of her death, she was residing at 1320 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA, (and this address appears in the Ennis family with various residents from the 1900 U.S federal census through the 1940 census). She was 41 years, 1

month, and 12 days old on the date of her death, 14 November 1920. She was a married housewife whose father was **George Mason**, born in New York, and whose mother was **Margret Tuney**, also born in New York. There was no mention of her husband, Harry S. Ennis, Sr., however in the 1920 census recorded just a few months earlier, he had been living in the Wilkes-Barre (Pennsylvania) County Jail. The date of Esther's burial was 16 November 1920 in Forty Fort Cemetery with the arrangements being handled by M. C. Honeywell, undertaker.

Then, the cause of death was described. For my great-grandmother, the cause of death was "Tuberculosis of throat, about 3 months in duration, with the contributory factor being Tuberculosis of Lungs, about 2 years." She had last been seen by Dr. W. F. Darrow "4 days earlier" and had been under his care for 7 years. There were some sections left blank, but none were as pertinent as what was written.

Three generations were confirmed on this death certificate! Spellings of names were confirmed. Birthplaces were confirmed as well as the maiden names of two women. An address was familiar, and birth and death dates were recorded. The cause of death was described and the doctor's and undertaker's names were recorded. Then I searched for some other names and discovered more about the family members.

I found death certificates for five great-aunts or uncles, all infant siblings of my paternal grandmother. In each case the infant was named, and the father was the informant. I found the death certificates of two great-uncles, a brother to each of my grandfathers. Neither of my parents had known about either man. Then I looked for a great-uncle; according to family lore, he was gassed in World War I. I found his death certificate: **John G. Williams** died in a sanatorium in his early 40s from "complications of gassing in The War." He was a widower; we had never heard that. So I bird-walked to the Pennsylvania marriage records on FamilySearch and then cross-referenced them with the earlier census records (1900 and 1910). Uncle Johnny had been married, but his wife had died after giving birth to a stillborn child before WWI.

The last death certificate was Great-Uncle

Benny's—**Benjamin G. Williams**. This was the heroic great-uncle who had died after a mine accident in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, in 1916 when he was 26 years and 3 months old. Benny's death certificate read like a news report: "The heroic, well-known Benny Wms. died three days after trying to rescue his co-workers who were trapped in the Woodward Colliery on Aug. 5th after explosion. Died of suffocation due to the explosion of toxic gas in the mines." This was one story from family lore that was sadly accurate.

In July, additional years of Pennsylvania death certificates will be released online and available for researchers to find. Working with the Pennsylvania death certificates is an exercise in gathering genealogical details that might, or might not, be recorded elsewhere and in collecting data from a primary source document. Hopefully this record group will prove to be useful for your genealogy.

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## GENEALOGISTS INITIATE A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

*Press Release*

*10 May 2014*

**Richmond, Virginia:** Jordan Jones, President of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), a sponsoring member of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), announced the Genealogists' Declaration of Rights before a crowd of more than 2,500 genealogists attending the Opening Session of the NGS 2014 Family History Conference in Richmond, Virginia on 7 May 2014.

The Declaration of Rights is a statement advocating open access to federal, state, and local public records. The Declaration affirms America's long history of open public records, which has been threatened the last few years over concerns about identity theft and privacy. The Records Preservation and Access Committee has worked with state and federal legislators as well as local public officials for more than twenty years in support of legislation and regulations that achieve a balance between access and privacy. The Declaration of Rights has been approved by the board of directors of the three sponsoring organizations: The National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies

(FGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS).

During the NGS 2014 Family History Conference this week, genealogists from almost all fifty states have signed the Declaration of Rights. Over the next few months, the Declaration will travel to the 34th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City, Utah, 27 July–1 August 2014 and the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in San Antonio, Texas, 27–30 August 2014. The Declaration will also be available for signature at <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration> by genealogists not attending one of the conferences.

Genealogists advocate the right of access to records held by government agencies including but not limited to vital records (births, marriages, deaths, divorces); land conveyances and mortgages; tax assessments; guardianships; probate of estates; criminal proceedings; suits of law and equity; immigration; military service and pensions; and acts of governmental entities. Genealogists further advocate that they need to be allowed access to original records when photocopies, microfilm, digital images, or other formats are insufficient to establish clear text, context, or completeness of the record. The rights of genealogists specified in the Declaration object to numerous barriers created to deny them access to records.

Thousands of professional genealogists do research everyday on behalf of clients, government agencies, and attorneys. Of particular note are the many forensic genealogists who assist the Department of Defense in locating heirs for the repatriation of remains from previous wars; assist county coroners in the identification of unclaimed persons; work with attorneys in locating missing and unknown heirs involving estates, trusts, real estate quiet title actions, oil and gas and mineral rights, and other similar legal transactions; trace and track heritable medical conditions where finding distant cousins can facilitate early treatment and possibly prevent a premature death; research stolen art and artifacts for repatriation; and identify American Indians, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians to determine eligibility for tribal benefits. The Records Preservation and Access

Committee (RPAC) is a joint committee of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) as sponsoring members. The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), and the American Society of Genealogists (ASG) also serve as participating members. RPAC meets monthly to inform and advise the genealogical community on ensuring proper access to vital records and on supporting strong records preservation policies and practices at the federal, state, and occasionally the local level.

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## **POZNAN REGION MARRIAGE TRANSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE**

The Poznan Project is transcribing marriage records from the 19th century for the former Prussian province of Posen and making the information available online. Posen, which refers to a city and a region, is now Poznań, Poland. The website for the project, <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl>, is written in English.

This volunteer project is providing access to the transcriptions for free. The volunteers are transcribing both church and civil records. The transcribed records are searchable, either by just surname or by combinations of first and last names of the bride and groom. Once a user finds a record of interest, they can follow a link to a window that describes where the information came from and the microfilm numbers (if any) available through the Family History Library.

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## **FORT PITT MUSEUM TO HOLD LIVING HISTORY EVENTS**

The Fort Pitt Museum will hold a series of living history events this summer. These events include re-enactors, demonstrations, and some hands-on activities. The schedule is

- 21 and 22 June – Artillery at the Forks
- 4 through 6 July – Revolutionary Fort Pitt
- 9 and 10 August – Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Blockhouse
- 13 and 14 September – Royal Artillery at

Fort Pitt

- 8 and 9 November – 250th Anniversary of the Return of the Captives

Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Members of the Heinz History Center receive free admission. The museum is open daily from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For more information, please visit <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org>.

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## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

### **Wednesday, 21 May 2014, 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORY CENTER**

The next meeting will feature author Mark Miner as the speaker. His topic will be "Well at this Time: The Civil War Diaries of Ephraim Miner." The center is located in the Beaver Train Station, 250 East End Avenue, Beaver. The meeting is free and open to the public. More information and a map showing the entrance to the center and parking are available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs>.

### **Wednesday, 28 May 2014, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB**

The program for the next Cranberry meeting will be a recorded presentation by Thomas MacEntee. His topic will be "Managing the Genealogy Data Monster". 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>.

### **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 <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>.

### **Saturday, 14 June 2014, 12:00 P.M. WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

This year is WPGS's fortieth anniversary. Join them for a buffet luncheon in the Crystal Room of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland. The cathedral's address is 419 South Dithridge Street. Parking is available at the church. Watch their website for additional information <http://www.wpgs.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. 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 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>.

**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/~ohlccgs/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](mailto: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, technology, Texas and neighboring states, and ethnic origins. Please visit <https://www.fgsconference.org> for more information.

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## 2014–2015 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**PRESIDENT - David Egelston**, the current NHG president, moved to Pittsburgh after college and has lived in the area ever since. A long-time member of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Dave joined NHG four years ago, where he has been active on the Fall Conference Committee. He finds that his interest in history and travel meshes perfectly with genealogy, and he has ancestors or relatives in most states north of the Mason-Dixon Line. He retired three years ago from a career in engineering, product marketing, and marketing support with Emerson Electric/Westinghouse. Dave currently resides in Oakmont with his wife, Bobby, a Pittsburgh native. Their son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter live in Minnesota.

**VICE PRESIDENT - Colleen Rumble** was born and raised in the South Hills but moved to the North Hills when she married Charlie Rumble. She worked at Dixmont State Hospital and Mayview State Hospital in Occupational Therapy and as a Biofeedback Therapist at the Forbes Back Institute. She retired when her daughter, Jennifer, was born. Colleen has served on the board of the Pittsburgh Ski Club, the Women's Guild of her church, and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Currently she is a member of the NHG Conference Committee. She has always had a love for the music and dancing of her Irish heritage, but it was her older cousins who sparked her interest in learning about the ancestors who brought that culture to America. They continue to collaborate with the stories heard, pictures found, and cemetery records unearthed to solve the mystery of where in Ireland did those ancestors live.

**SECRETARY - Kim Paulson** has lived in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh her entire life. She grew up in Shaler Township and moved to McCandless nine years ago. Kim attended LaRoche College during the evenings and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business in 2000 (it was the 11-year program). She has worked for PNC Financial Services for 28 years where she is currently a Human Resources Project Manager. Kim joined the North Hills Genealogists in 2012 and enjoys broadening her knowledge of family history and genealogy through the group's members and resources. Kim's interest in genealogy started two years ago with the TV show *Who Do You Think You Are?* Since then she has been tracing her ancestors in the Pittsburgh area and beyond. Kim enjoys traveling with her family and spending time outdoors gardening.

**TREASURER - Reed B. Powell** is the current and longtime NHG treasurer. He has worked in the computer industry since the early 1970s and now works for Impaqt, an Internet marketing company in Green Tree, where he develops database applications. Reed is the web master for the North Hills Genealogists, and he also lectures locally and nationally on the use of technology in genealogical research.

## BALLOT FOR THE 2014–2015 OFFICERS - NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

Ballot is due on or before 30 June 2014. Your ballot may be turned in at any NHG meeting, or mail your completed ballot to: **North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090.**

### President

David Egelston \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

### Secretary

Kim Paulson \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

### Vice President

Colleen Rumble \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

### Treasurer

Reed Powell \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)



P.O. Box 169  
Wexford, PA 15090

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **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.

### **Tuesday, 22 July 2014** **Evaluating Websites**

*Cyndi Ingle*

Ingle is the force behind CyndisList.com, which was founded eighteen years ago. During this time, 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.

### **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 20 May 2014** **LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE OF WESTERN 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.