



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

HELP NHG PRESERVE THE WAR OF 1812 PENSIONS

The War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Files in the National Archives are being digitized and placed online for FREE! This is a bicentennial project led by the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) in conjunction with Fold3, Ancestry.com, and the National Archives. North Hills Genealogists is asking you to help make this \$3.7 million dollar project a reality!

One of NHG's missions is to help preserve history. The National Archives reports that the War of 1812 pension files are among their most heavily requested materials. With that level of use, these valuable records, *available in no other format*, are in danger of grave deterioration. To take an image of each pension page costs approximately forty-five cents.

The National Archives needs our help in order to make these images available online for free. The NHG board has decided to match any funds given it for the purpose of preserving these pensions. This means that every dollar you contribute preserves not just two but four images of these precious documents for future generations. In addition, Ancestry.com has generously offered to match all contributions, and the Malcolm H. Stern-NARA Gift Fund will match that again for sixteen pages of endangered pensions digitized for every dollar you contribute! You *can* make a difference! To learn more about this worthy cause, please visit <http://www.preservethepensions.org>.

It's very easy to donate. All you have to do is write a check payable to FGS-War of 1812 Project or to North Hills Genealogists (*write FGS-War of 1812 Project on the Memo line*) and send it to NHG at PO Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090. NHG will collect the individual checks, provide the NHG match amount (up to \$750.00), and send

the checks and a list of individual names and amounts to FGS. The list of names will be used for the inclusion on various Honor Roll categories shown on the website.

You don't have to be an NHG member to donate to this endeavor. Please share this information with your family, friends, and others whom you think might be interested. In particular, if you participate in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), please post about the Preserve the Pensions effort. This is a wonderful opportunity to turn your \$1 into \$8 for a wonderful cause from which we can all benefit.

The deadline for donating to the Preserve the Pensions Project and receiving the NHG match is 30 April 2015. So hurry, and send your check today to be part of a project of such vast historical significance. You can continue to donate to the project throughout 2015 without the NHG match.

All of the War of 1812 Pension Records digitized with your donations will be made available to the public for free on Fold3 at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions>. Approximately 60% of the pensions have been digitized and uploaded thus far.

Thank you for helping to make a difference in digitizing and preserving our history!

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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

These past few months I have taken a break from my usual research, which consists more and more of banging my head into various barriers, especially brick walls. I have begun researching some collateral lines from my third great-grandfather forward. Much of my recent research has dealt with the 1840s and going back to the colonial period. Now, I have been looking at records from 1850 to 1920. This has been much easier. It also feels somewhat sinful since, as we know, genealogists are supposed to research from what we know going backward in time.

My third great-grandfather, James Thomas, and his second wife, Abigail, raised eight children to adulthood from 1818 onward in Adams County in western Illinois. Four of those children stayed in Adams County or just north in Hancock County. But beginning in the mid-1850s, the other four children, including the families of some in-laws, picked up and moved to Linn County, Missouri, in the north-central part of the state. I had never looked at these families, because I am descended from one of the sons who lived in Hancock County. I also have no idea why they moved to Missouri.

I was recently introduced to a cousin who is descended from two of those four families, and she supplied me with the information that she had, which relied heavily on “Uncle Bob’s records” and “Aunt Judy’s notes”. I decided to see what basic information (essentially birth/marriage/death) I could find about these families online, going forward three generations. I was amazed at how much is now available just by searching, and I was able to amass about 90% of the records I needed for each family in one or two weeks.

Here is what I found, which most of you probably already know:

- Beginning with the 1850 U.S. census, all members of a household are listed, with birthplace.
- Beginning with the 1880 U.S. census, the relationship of each member of the household to the head of the household is listed, as well as the birthplace of the

parents. You no longer need to guess if Joey is a son or a cousin.

- In the 1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses, questions are asked concerning the number of years married, the number of children a mother has had, and the number of those children living. This really fills in the cracks for the ten years between the censuses, ensures that all children have been accounted for, and helps one become aware of possible infant deaths.

I search directly for the databases I am interested in, rather than going first to a genealogical site such as FamilySearch or Ancestry. That's how I found that Illinois has published marriage records from the time of the establishment of each county; that Missouri has published the actual images of death records online from 1834 to 1963 (not necessarily complete); and that neither Kansas nor Oklahoma have any such online records. I also found that Cyndi's List provides links to other on-line resources by state.

I have begun to rely on Find-a-Grave to fill in the gaps, especially in states where no official records are available online. Probably half of the relevant burials I have found on this site have been posted since 2010. Obviously, you need to be careful with this information, especially if a tombstone is not pictured, but the site is useful in finding other family members that may be buried in a particular cemetery or nearby. Calculated relationships with hot links can also be useful if they correlate with what you already know.

Birth, marriage, and death information does not make a complete family history. Bobby and I are planning to go to the NGS National Conference this spring in St. Joseph, Missouri. That will give me the opportunity to take a few extra days to do some actual fieldwork in Linn County—finding and visiting properties, walking graveyards, and looking up estate and other records in the county courthouse.

To find out more specifically about Pennsylvania records, come to our February monthly meeting.

~ Dave

NHG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS MEET

The three North Hills Genealogist SIGs have their feet on the ground and are running well. Interested members can keep up with current information from these groups by going to NHG's website (<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org>) and looking under *Special Interest Groups* in the left hand column. The meeting dates and times are also listed in Meetup.com.

Bobby Egelston and Linda Lower gathered the **German SIG** at St Paul's Methodist Church on Ferguson Road. This month they discussed important historical events in German history and the importance of using maps to explore the changing borders of Germany. This is key when researching your German ancestor. In addition to this, they referenced a couple of German genealogical societies to help members connect with others researching that country. The next meeting of the German SIG will be held on Saturday, 21 February at 9:00 A.M.

Members of the **Pennsylvania SIG** submitted surnames, Pennsylvania counties of research interest, and the time frame of their research for a spreadsheet to be shared with all members. It was exciting to see that several members discovered family connections or common places. This also provided an opportunity to discuss problems with those infamous brick walls and to have members exchange tips and ideas.

One of the members of the Pennsylvania SIG talked about her use of *Bates' History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers* for Civil War Veterans to find the final resting place of those soldiers in her county of interest. Another gave tips on using Find-A-Grave and suggested posting the GPS coordinates so that others may find that elusive grave that is hidden in a field or under a tree. A common problem in this topic was the absence of headstones for the deceased soldiers. One of the members has been correcting this error with his ancestors and will share his information at a later date.

The Pennsylvania SIG group recently changed their meeting time to 6:00-7:30 P.M. They will continue to meet in the conference room at the Shaler Library on Mt Royal Blvd. The conference

room can be found on the second floor on the right side of the hall. They meet the fourth Wednesday of every month. February's meeting will be held on the 25th.

The **British Isle Group SIG** meets the first Wednesday of every month at St. Catherine of Sweden Roman Catholic Church on Wildwood Road. Their next meeting will be held 4 March 2015 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 113, Farmer Hall. Cindy Rylands is coordinating this SIG.

QUERY

BELFORE/BALFOUR

Seeking information on Isabella **BELFORE**, b. Ireland about 1834. She married David **HAWTHORN** early in 1850. Children were: Margaret, b. abt. 1852 in PA; Robert David, b. Aug. 3, 1855 in Pittsburgh, PA; Samuel, b. Jan. 8, 1860 in Pittsburgh; and Mary J, b. July 6, 1865 in Pittsburgh. Isabella died Jan. 18, 1880 and is buried in Allegheny Cemetery. Owner of the lot is Robert **BELFORE**, b. Ireland, County Down, 1826, and d. July 1, 1855. If you have any information, please contact **Colleen Rumble** at crumble@zoominternet.net.

NECROLOGY

It is with sadness that the NHG Board reports the passing of NHG member Clyde T. Jones, Jr., in December 2014. Anyone who met Clyde at monthly NHG meetings enjoyed talking about genealogy with him. In addition to his interest in genealogy, Clyde also spent time with Ham Radio Clubs in the area, the Radio Control Airplane Club, and with the Boy Scouts—for more than seventy years. The North Hills Genealogists expresses its sincere condolences to Clyde's family, including his wife, son, daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA ADDS ONLINE RESOURCES

On 11 February, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) announced its launch of a collection of new digital resources online. With this expanded collection, HSP has added “new

tools designed to support connecting online and for exploring collections.”

In last week's *History Happenings* monthly e-mail announcement from HSP, the following press release revealed details for genealogists with Pennsylvania roots about the new online resources:

Discover

Discover, HSP's online search interface, has been updated and enhanced. The new version includes a **book bag** feature, social functions such as **tagging** and **commenting**, and the ability to create **public and private lists of records** for logged in users.

The new system will also include almost **11,000** records imported from HSP's Digital Library, so that users may search for **physical and digital items simultaneously**.

The new *Discover* allows for a more **social researching experience**. The ability to create public and private lists of records is ideal for those wishing to share and keep track of their findings. For example:

- **Genealogists** investigating their family history can now update their family members on their latest research;
- **Educators** may select a group of records relating to a lesson plan or classroom theme;
- **Students** can then search for and comment upon these records.

Tagging and commenting enable users to participate in how records are cataloged in HSP's collections. This increases the records' findability as well as adding crowd-sourced knowledge to the records themselves. For example:

- **Genealogists** are welcome to tag the records that relate to their family and elaborate on that relationship as a comment;
- **Educators** are invited to use the tag and comment features to help students identify and engage with historical figures and events;
- **Students** are welcome to voice their opinion about the themes and issues raised in the record's content, and to add

cataloging terms of their own choosing.

Browsing & Searching

New search tools are available to guide your exploration through HSP's collection of twenty-one million items. Users can now **search by record source and by collection**, combining terms in complex ways. Not sure where to start your search? Want to discover something new? The **browse tool** allows users to explore our collection by combining factors like author name, era, and topic.

PAL (Patron Access Link)

HSP is also pleased to announce its new proxy server, affectionately called PAL (Patron Access Link). PAL **allows members to log into HSP systems from home** and access members-only resources. Members will be able to log into the new *Discover* system, the HSP website, and the new genealogy databases using the same HSP account, with the added comfort of exploring the library and archive wherever they may be—from Philadelphia to the Philippines.

HSP Genealogy

The Genealogical and Biographical Database Project, now in its third year, has been indexing and summarizing HSP record collections that are particularly rich in information on individuals, including the records of the **Philadelphia Home for Infants, Philadelphia Job Placement Office**, and the **Home Missionary Society**. These new databases, the first in a series of databases under development for HSP members, are **now available online, via PAL**.

Mobile Interface

Explore HSP's collections **on the go!** Part of its enhanced support for remote access users, *Discover* is now designed to work seamlessly on your iOS, Android, and other mobile devices. The tag, comment, book bag, and list features are all available on the mobile *Discover*.

Single Sign-On

Following the launch of these new tools and features, users and HSP members will be able to use a **single user name and password to log in for all HSP systems**, including the

website, *Discover*, PAL, and the new genealogy databases. Access to the Digital Library followed shortly after launch. **Users should receive an e-mail notifying them to create a new password.**

NHG members and other interested genealogy researchers can access the HSP website at <http://www.hsp.org>.

TLC'S WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? RETURNS IN MARCH

The Learning Channel (TLC) has announced some details about the upcoming season of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which begins in early March. Please note that in 2015, *WDYTUA?* will air on Sunday evenings.

According to the TLC News link: "From roots in the Deep South to the slums of New Jersey, *Who Do You Think You Are?* follows the journeys of some of the most well-known names in American popular culture. Watch as celebrities discover unknown details about themselves and their families while researching their ancestry with the help of historians and genealogical experts. Executive Producers Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky open doors to fascinating real-life stories and eye-opening, impactful revelations. Tune into *Who Do You Think You Are?* starting Sunday, March 8 at 10/9c on TLC. Celebrities featured this season include Julie Chen, Angie Harmon, Sean Hayes, and Bill Paxton."

Actress and producer Lisa Kudrow added the following quote about this show that many genealogists enjoy: "I've never stopped hearing about how much people love *Who Do You Think You Are?* and I've always known that we've had more great stories to share," says Lisa Kudrow. "TLC is a great home for the series, and we join our excited celebrity participants as we unearth some amazing background and surprising histories."

ARNER RECEIVES AWARD

Last month the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) gave NHG Newsletter Co-editor Amy Arner their Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr., Award of Merit. APG gives the award to one

person a year for personal commitment and outstanding service to the organization. Congratulations to Amy!

BOOK REVIEW: *A Colony Sprung from Hell: Pittsburgh and the Struggle for Authority on the Western Pennsylvania Frontier, 1744–1794.*

By David Egelston

Thorough genealogists read history, not only to understand the circumstances of their ancestors in a particular time and place, but to help determine which jurisdictions issued what documents and why. Daniel Barr's book, *A Colony Sprung from Hell: Pittsburgh and the Struggle for Authority on the Western Pennsylvania Frontier, 1744–1794* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2014), is a prime resource for those who had ancestors in western Pennsylvania during the late colonial period. Barr is a professor of early American history at Robert Morris University. His book covers fifty tumultuous years in the Pittsburgh region, from the earliest Indian traders and land speculators through the Whiskey Rebellion. The basic conflict throughout the book is the border dispute between Pennsylvania and Virginia, which were rivals for western expansion first as colonies and later as states. Until the Mason-Dixon Line was finalized and the western boundary of Pennsylvania established, both colonies claimed the same territory, including the forks of the Ohio. These rival claims originated in vague and overlapping royal charters that the king of England granted to the colonies.

Most of the tension between Pennsylvania and Virginia was political and economic. The Penn proprietors kept a tight rein on land development, only issuing new land grants after negotiations with the Indians. Most western Pennsylvanians were Indian traders who carefully cultivated ties with the various Upper Ohio Indian tribes who were moving into the region as a result of settler pressure in the east. Virginia on the other hand, was "an expansionist colony with a western oriented planter aristocracy which controlled the Virginia government". Virginia formed its Ohio Company

early and gave large land grants in the area of the forks of the Ohio. The grants conflicted and overlapped, and the royal authorities in England often declared them invalid.

This conflict was the background for many other issues facing the people in western Pennsylvania. Until after 1768 everyone on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains was a squatter with no land rights. Barr also discusses how the Seven Years' (French and Indian) War in Pennsylvania (1756–1763) created problems with the Indians, which continued through the Revolutionary War. Mostly the problems consisted of raids where Indians killed settlers and livestock and burned buildings. Then the colonial militias, mostly Virginian but sometimes Pennsylvanian, counterattacked by going after peaceful Indian villages, killing everyone including women and children. This created a cycle of further attacks.

There was a British officer assigned to Fort Pitt after the end of the Seven Years War, but he had no British troops to command. There was no civilian government—both Philadelphia and Williamsburg ignored the region. By 1772 the British had abandoned western Pennsylvania, and a Virginia militia occupied the forks of the Ohio. Virginia formed three counties in the area to bolster its claim to the region. Pennsylvania in turn created Westmoreland County and stationed militia in Hanna's Town. The two militias frequently harassed each other.

During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army assigned an officer to Fort Pitt to coordinate protection of the frontier from Indians stirred up by the British. Again, this officer had no troops and inadequate provisions, and relied on the Virginia and Pennsylvania militias for all military action. Some accounts have said that the two militias cooperated during the Revolutionary War, but Barr says that this was generally not true.

After the Revolutionary War, Pennsylvania took control of the region, creating Washington County. The Pennsylvanians attempted to verify property ownership and enforced land and estate taxes. This did not sit well with the former Virginia settlers—civilian authority only showed up to collect taxes. There was practically a rebellion until the ring leaders were offered

positions as Washington County officials. Many of the settlers in southwestern Pennsylvania moved further west to stay in Virginia territory (think Kentucky).

The final part of Barr's book deals with the Whiskey Rebellion. Western Pennsylvanians considered the federal excise tax on whiskey an unfair tax imposed by a remote government. When the federal government threatened to send a force of 10,000 troops, the rebellion leaders agreed to submit to the government's authority. Afterward a contingent of 1,500 Continental troops was stationed in Washington County at the abandoned campus of the Washington Academy (now the campus of Washington and Jefferson College). As Barr reports, this deployment actually boosted the economy of Washington County as the army, while camped there, spent considerable money for food, other provisions and, yes, whiskey.

Barr provides extensive endnotes containing references to both primary and secondary sources and supplies a detailed autobiography. This is valuable resource to help understand the early settlement of Western Pennsylvania.

[Editors' note: We welcome reviews of genealogically relevant books. A review does not have to be as lengthy as this one.]

FREE BOOK ABOUT OREGON BURIAL SITES

[Thanks to Elissa Scalise Powell for forwarding this information.]

Press Release

1 February 2015

Aloha, Ore.—We [Stoney Way, LLC] are losing our warehouse space at the end of July. So, the boss said to offer the *Oregon Burial Site Guide*, compiled by Dean Byrd, Stanley Clarke, and Janice M. Healy, for FREE. Previously available for \$125, we will send a hardbound copy to anyone for only the cost of shipping and handling (\$20). The book is 8.5" by 11" by 2" with over 1,200 pages and weighs about 8 pounds in the shipping carton.

There are about 2,500 burial sites in the 36 counties of Oregon. This book identifies where

they are located, not lists of who is buried in them. Burial information is included only for the very small sites on private property with 12 or fewer burials. Fully alphabetized by county and site, each county is indexed, and there are some black and white photos to show a few monuments in each county. There is also a statewide index in the back. We tried to include all the "also-known-as" names to the many sites.

This is a must-have for those researching Oregon using death certificates. The content is updated and corrected, unlike the material from the old ODOT book available on the web.

To receive a copy, send your payment of \$20, postmarked no later than 1 July 2015. Those of you with non-profit status, please add your tax ID number. Any questions may be directed to Janice Healy at jmhealy1@comcast.net. This will be the last chance to get this fabulous resource. Make checks out to: Stoney Way, LLC and send request to P.O. Box 5414, Aloha, OR 97006-0414.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Monday, 23 February 2015 4:00 P.M.

ZELIENOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Zelienople Public Library will hold a Genealogy Work Session from 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Bring your genealogy puzzles to the library and enjoy a collaborative work session to find the missing pieces in your family tree. NHG Newsletter Co-editor Susan Ennis will guide you through methods and sources to locate your ancestors. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop or tablet to use. The program is free, and registration is not required. Additional sessions will be held 9 March and 23 March.

Wednesday, 25 February 2015 6:30 P.M.

CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

Judi Boren will lead a discussion about marriage records, including watching portions of videos available from Ancestry.com. The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Cranberry Public Library's Franklin Station meeting room. The library's address is 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township. Visit <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org> for more information.

Thursday, 26 February 2015 6:00 P.M.
BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Butler Library will host a free program on using Ancestry.com Library Edition, which is now available at the library. The program will be held in the library's Basement Meeting Room. The library's address is 218 North McKean Street, Butler. To register, send an e-mail to mhewitt@bcfls.org or call 724-287-1715, extension 116.

6–7 March 2015
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HSP will hold Family History Days at its facility at 1300 Locust Street in Philadelphia. The event will feature lectures, behind-the-scenes tours, research time, and one-on-one consultations. Space is limited. More information is available at <http://hsp.org/calendar/family-history-days>.

13–15 March 2015
FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY
WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

FTU's Winter Conference will feature fifteen video classes. The presenters from some of the classes will host live chats during the conference. The conference tracks will include genetic genealogy, genealogy technology, research strategies, and ethnic genealogy. Visit <https://www.familytreeuniversity.com/courses/winter-2015-virtual-genealogy-conference> for more information.

Saturday, 14 March 2015 10:00 A.M.
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WCHS and the Ligonier Valley Writers will present "Memoir Writing and Genealogy" at the WCHS Pollins Library in Greensburg. Call 724-532-1935, extension 210 to register. The cost is \$35.00 for WCHS or LVW members and \$40.00 for non-members. The fee includes a box lunch. Visit <http://www.westmorelandhistory.org> for more information.

Saturday, 14 March 2015 10:00 A.M.
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Marilyn Cocchiola Holt will present "Resources for British Isles Research." The meeting will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland. The meeting is free and open to the public. Parking in the Carnegie Library/Museum lot is \$5.00. Watch <http://www.wpgs.org> for more information.

21–22 March 2015
OHIO COUNTRY CONFERENCE

The eighteenth annual conference will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood. The event, which focuses on the era around the French and Indian War, will feature six lectures and a Saturday evening reception. More information is available at <http://bushyrunbattlefield.com/news-events>.

Monday, 23 March 2015 10:00 A.M.
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER

WCHS and the Heinz History Center will host the "Irish Genealogy Workshop." Genealogists Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Ireland, will be lecturing. Two of the topics will be "Intro to Irish and Scotch-Irish Family History Research" and "Tracing Farming Families in the 18th and 19th Century: Using Landed Estate Records". It will be held at the History Center, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh. The event also includes a behind-scenes-tour of the History Center's Irish American collection and an overview of the WCHS and History Center's genealogical resources. Call 724-532-1935, extension 210 to register. For more information, please visit <http://www.westmorelandhistory.org> or <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org>.

27–28 March 2015
FAIRFAX GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY SPRING CONFERENCE

The conference will be held at the Fairfax

Marriott at Fair Oaks, 11787 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax, Virginia. The theme is *Tips and Tricks for Researching the Mid-Atlantic and European Connections*. The lectures will cover topics such as African American, Eastern European, German, Irish, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania research; military records; and general methodology. For more information, please visit <http://www.fxgs.org>.

9–11 April 2015
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The 2015 OGS conference will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio. It will feature ninety lectures and workshops in tracks including organization; records and resources; problem solving; immigration; sharing family history; African American and Southern research; forensic genealogy; general methodology; technology; German research; getting started; Ohio research; DNA and genetic genealogy; preserving your heritage; and more. This conference is relatively close to Pittsburgh, making it a great place to attend your first multi-day conference. The program is now available at <http://www.ogs.org>.

15–18 April 2015
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL
GENEALOGICAL CONSORTIUM
CONFERENCE

The theme for this year's conference is *Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future*. The conference will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Each day features seven lecture tracks covering topics like DNA, military records, photographs, New England repositories, and more. For more information and a registration brochure, please visit <http://www.nergc.org>.

13–16 May 2015
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

NGS's next conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri. The conference program is available and registration is open. The early bird

registration deadline is 30 March. This year NGS will live stream some of the conference sessions. The streamed sessions will be available for purchase in packages. One package will focus on the immigration and naturalization process and the other on methodology techniques. Each package consists of five lectures. If you can't attend the conference in person, purchasing and watching one of the packages is a great way to learn. For more information, please visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

26–27 June 2015
PALATINES TO AMERICA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

This year's Pal Am conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, on Second Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Lecturers will include Michael D. Lacopo, Jonathan Stayer, Katherine Lowe Brown, Iren Snavey, Joe Lieby, and Kathleen Hale. Watch <https://www.palam.org> for additional details and registration information.

28 June–3 July 2015
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

The first GRIP session this summer will feature classes on writing your family history, kinship determination, research in New York, using church records (with NHG Fall Conference 2014 speaker Rev. David McDonald), land records, and DNA. Space is still available in some classes. Class descriptions and more information is available at <http://www.gripitt.org>.

19–24 July 2015
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

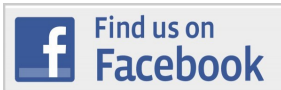
The second GRIP session this summer will feature classes on intermediate research, advanced research, genealogy as a career, Pennsylvania research, DNA, and using the law in genealogy. Registration for this week opens 18 February. Some classes will fill up quickly. Class descriptions and more information is available at <http://www.gripitt.org>.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 17 March 2015 **Using Evernote**

Carole Ashbridge, MLS

Do you struggle with keeping files, research plans, newspaper clippings, e-mails, and web pages organized? Have you become inundated with paper files and notebooks of information? NHG Social Media Chair Carole Ashbridge, MLS, will demonstrate how to organize your files and easily find them by using the free application Evernote.

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 **Writing and Presenting Your Family History**

Dave Egelston

NHG President Dave Egelston will discuss various formats for creating a family history—from formal multi-generation histories to informal treatments of a few generations in booklet, picture book, video, or slide format. Egelston will cover writing articles for both peer reviewed journals and popular magazines.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 17 February 2015 **Pennsylvania Vital Records**

Amy Arner

NHG Newsletter Co-editor Amy Arner will discuss how and where to find birth, death, and marriage records in Pennsylvania. She will show examples of each type of document and what kinds of valuable information researchers can find in them.