



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

JOIN US FOR THE NHG FALL CONFERENCE ON 25 OCTOBER

NHG welcomes Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG, for the annual NHG Fall Conference on Saturday, along with a Friday evening workshop. Registrations are still being accepted for both programs. To register, navigate to www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org by Friday and complete the online form. The theme of the 2014 conference, *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: Praying for Records*, hints at the topics to be presented during the full day event.

The registration fee for the Fall Conference is \$60.00 for members and \$70.00 for non-members. This cost includes all workshop handouts, a continental breakfast, and a hot buffet lunch. Dessert will be provided through the generosity of NHG members who donate delicious baked goods each year. The event will be held at the Wildwood Golf Club, 2195 Sample Road, Allison Park, starting at 9:00 A.M.

The Rev. Dr. David McDonald's lecture topics include "Churches in Pennsylvania and Their Records", "Colonial Era Migration to Pennsylvania", "It's a Good Thing Mother's Gone: Records from the OTHER Side of the Courthouse", and "Religious Records: More Than Hatchings, Matchings, and Dispatchings". A Q&A session will end the full day of instruction.

In addition to the stimulating lectures, delicious food, and wonderful camaraderie, the Fall Conference will feature fantastic door prizes. Among these items are one-year subscriptions to Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, Mocavo, and Fold3. There will also be autographed books and genealogy software.

For those interested in Friday night's workshop, the registration fee is \$15.00; the workshop will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. at Wildwood. The

evening workshop is co-sponsored by NHG and the Association of Professional Genealogists Great Lakes Chapter. McDonald will present "Document Transcription, Analysis, and Research Plans". Seating is limited for the Friday night workshop, but there are still spaces available.

Attending the annual NHG Fall Conference is an incredible opportunity to learn from a nationally known genealogical expert and network with fellow genealogists. Register now, and we will see you this weekend!

SIGS CONVENE

Many members have already signed up for one or more special interest groups (also known as SIGS), NHG's newest program offering. The objective of a SIG is for the participants to focus on learning about a specific topic related to their genealogical pursuits.

The NHG Board is preparing to move forward with three SIGS: Germany, the British Isles, and Pennsylvania. We'll use Tip Time during this month's meeting for organizing the groups. All are welcome to pull up a chair during the process. After the first three SIGs are up and running, we'll start organizing others based on the requested topics. You can still sign up for a SIG by sending an email to Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org as soon as possible. Please type *Study Groups* in the subject line of your message.

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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

In August 2012 I was in Boise, Idaho, helping my parents pack. We kids had finally convinced them to downsize, sell their house, and move into an independent living facility. I came across the galley proofs that my parents had assembled for their 50th high school reunion yearbook (Boise High School Class of 1939). My dad, who usually never throws anything away, told me to toss it. I decided that that wasn't a good idea and put the package in my car. Later I donated it to the Idaho State Historical Museum down the road. They were delighted to have it.

While we look through boxes of stuff that we and our ancestors have accumulated over the years, there will be many items that we will want to keep, preserve, and, hopefully, organize for ourselves and future generations. But there are other items (photographs, documents, handicrafts, clothing, furniture, etc.) that we have no use for or, rather, we don't think we do. Consider donating items such as these to a local, regional, or state historical society or archive.

My wife Bobby found several large photographs taken in the Pittsburgh area between 1895 and 1930, consisting of school class pictures and workplace, fraternal organization, band, and singing group pictures. There were some cousins and a couple of direct ancestors hidden in them, but nothing of family significance. Bobby decided to donate them to the Heinz History Center. The curator was not sure, from the initial description, whether they wanted them or not. I had scanned these photographs just to have copies for later use, so Bobby sent the archivist a spreadsheet of all the information we had about each picture (date, location, occasion, names of people) and a page of thumbprints. Based on that, the History Center decided that they would accept them and also agreed to determine, if possible, where certain photographs were taken (a particular steel mill, for instance). Bobby signed the standard forms that transferred rights to the History Center for the items, without giving up her right to copy and publish any of the material.

During the discussion, Bobby mentioned that she had a wedding dress and two matching vests from her great-great-grandmother's 1866

wedding in Germany. The archivist said that they would gladly accept and preserve those materials, and the History Center would also make them available for viewing by any family member with 24 hours' notice. Bobby is getting approval from her great-great-grandmother's other descendants for these clothing items to be donated and will write up the backstory (to provide the context) before donating these items.

The bottom line is: be very cautious about throwing out any historical materials. If you have no use for something, there may be someone else who would want it. Unbeknownst to you, it may actually have some historical value. Evaluate the best place to offer the items. I have some original genealogical documents and correspondence from the 1920s concerning four families in Hancock County, Illinois. The county historical society has a nice facility, but is mostly run by volunteers and has no professional archivist or librarian on staff. I will probably eventually donate the originals to the Illinois State Historical Library or the Newberry Library, with copies to the county facility.

~ Dave

MUSEUM CONSERVATION CENTER NOW OPEN IN PITTSBURGH

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

The Senator John Heinz History Center opened its newest division, the Museum Conservation Center, on 20 September 2014. Programs and services will be offered to genealogists and those who have inherited the family treasures.

The Museum Conservation Center is located directly behind the main History Center in the Dietrich Building at 1221 Penn Avenue in the Strip District of Pittsburgh. The Conservation Center is open to the public from Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. and also by appointment.

Professional conservation services and expert advice are available through the experts at the Museum Conservation Center. In addition to the archival conservationists and their expertise, workshops will be offered to the public throughout the year. Saturday, 22 November

2014 is the next family archives workshop; this will be followed on Thursday, 11 December 2014 with a heritage workshop with a holiday theme. For more details, check under the link for *Events* at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

According to the Heinz History Center website, objectives for the new Museum Conservation Center include "advice on how to properly preserve and care for family heirlooms, including everything from artwork and photographs, furniture and textiles, and much more."

The most interesting aspect of the new Museum Conservation Center is that the standard for quality of advice will match that of the level of expertise that museums use when preserving and displaying their exhibits. As stated under the *Exhibits* link on the Heinz History Center website: "Trained staff will discuss your needs and evaluate the goals for the care and conservation of your objects." This service will include recommendations for treating artifacts and family heirlooms, for displaying these precious items, and proper storage and handling of all heirlooms, especially those that are fragile.

The Museum Conservation Center sells archival items for storing and preserving heirloom items in addition to their consulting services.

For more information, refer to the following articles that were recently publishing in Pittsburgh to highlight the newest division of the Heinz History Center:

Pittsburgh Business Times

www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2014/09/18/heinz-history-center-debuting-conservation-center.html

Tribune Review

<http://triblive.com/lifestyles/history/6771371-74/center-history-conservation#axzz3G4NoHn4T>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

www.post-gazette.com/ae/2014/09/18/History-center-helps-Pittsburghers-preserve-heirlooms/stories/201409180146

The Museum Conservation Center will potentially offer a unique, hometown service as Pittsburghers seek counsel on attic treasures and more to preserve vital family information.

TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING AND ORGANIZING PHOTOS

By Amy Arner, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

We all possess photographs we're not sure how to store. We also have photos where we cannot determine the identity of the subjects. Fortunately, there are several new resources that can help us.

Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective, has just published a new book on organizing photographs. She describes how to store photos safely and how to organize and manage them. *Photo Organizing Practices: Daguerreotype to Digital* is currently for sale through her website (<http://www.maurentaylor.com>) for the discounted price of \$15.00. The cost is usually \$20.00.

Additionally, Taylor will teach "Family Photographs: Identifying, Preserving, and Sharing Your Visual Heritage" through the new Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research. This Internet-based series of classes will be held Saturday, 21 February 2015 and Saturday, 28 February 2015. The class size will be limited to one hundred participants to facilitate class participation. Registration for this class will open soon at <http://www.virgenealogy.com>.

Sean William Nolan recently released a free online book about daguerreotypes. *Fixed In Time* is available through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fixed.in.time.book>. You do not have to have a Facebook account to download the PDF. This ninety-five page document covers some of the history of photographs. It also describes the mats, preservers, cases, and revenue stamps that you can use to date old photographs. There is a bibliography if you are interested in learning more about a particular topic.

This book is a work in progress. There are several places where there is a note that more information will be included in a later version. Nolan is seeking examples to help his work on the next version of the book. He provides an explicit description of items to send to him, along with his contact information, on page 92.

NHG PLANS HOLIDAY SOCIAL

NHG will hold our annual Holiday Social on Saturday, 6 December at 10:00 A.M. We'll tour Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum and then have lunch. The cost for the tour will be \$5.00 per person. Soldiers and Sailors is located in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh at 4141 Fifth Avenue. Parking is available in the garage under the Soldiers and Sailors front lawn for \$5.00. If you would like to join us, we ask that you please let us know so we can give the museum and restaurant a head count. To sign up, please email info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org or call Mary Dzurichko at 412-334-9778.

NHG NOW PARTICIPATES IN MEETUP.COM

The North Hills Genealogists now participates in the Meetup.com network of matching local face-to-face meetings with people who have an interest in the topics being discussed. NHG members can join the North Hills Genealogists' Meetup at <http://www.Meetup.com/North-Hills-Genealogists> and receive reminders about upcoming programs and events. For more information, see Reed Powell or send him an email at Treasurer@NorthHillGenealogists.org.

Our participation in Meetup.com also provides an easy way for you to tell others about our meetings. If you run into someone interested in genealogy, you can tell them to search Meetup.com for North Hills Genealogists.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 22 October 2014, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

Debbie Billeter will present "You, Too, Can Understand DNA" at the next Cranberry meeting. It will be held in the Relief Society Room of the Church of Latter-day Saints building, 2771 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

**28–30 October 2014
NATIONAL ARCHIVES VIRTUAL
GENEALOGY FAIR**

Watch experts from the National Archives and the United States Citizen and Immigration Services talk about federal records useful for genealogical research from the comfort of your own home! The event begins at 10:00 A.M. Eastern time each day. The topics to be covered include citizenship records, draft records, military records, patent records, and preservation. For more information, please visit <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair>.

**Saturday, 1 November 2014 11:00 A.M.
CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF
PITTSBURGH WEST END
BRANCH**

Marilyn Holt, Head of the Pennsylvania Department, will present “Climbing Your Family Tree: Beginning Genealogy.” The West End Branch’s address is 47 Wabash Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15220. For more information, please visit <http://www.carnegielibrary.org>.

**Saturday, 8 November 2014 10:00 A.M.
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The next WPGS meeting will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. The event is free and open to the public. Parking in the Carnegie Library and Museum lot is \$5.00 for the day. Visit <http://www.wpgs.org> for more information.

**Saturday, 15 November 2014 11:00 A.M.
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
PENNSYLVANIA**

GSP will hold a *Self-Publishing Boot Camp* webinar. Lisa Alzo will present “DIY Publishing for the Family Historian: Tips, Tricks, and Tools” and Thomas MacEntee will present “Microsoft Word Secrets for Self-Publishing.” The cost is \$10.00 for GSP members and \$20.00 for non-members. More information is available at <http://www.genpa.org>.

**Monday, 17 November 2014 1:00 P.M.
MT. LEBANON GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

NHG Book Marketing Chair Elissa Powell, CG, CGL, will present “What’s a Prothonotary? Your Guide to Pennsylvania Courthouse Records.” The event will be held in Meeting Room A on the lower level of the Mt. Lebanon Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Pittsburgh. For more information, please visit <http://mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society>.

**11–14 February 2015
FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETIES/ROOTSTECH**

FGS and RootsTech are hosting a one-time special event in Salt Lake City, Utah. The two events will share some sessions and an exhibit hall. Each conference will also have sessions specifically for its attendees. Participants can register for one or both conferences. See <http://www.fgsconference.org> for more information.

**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. Watch <http://www.ogs.org> for more information.

**“FAMILYSEARCH AND HSP TO
PUBLISH HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
ONLINE”**

Blog Post/Press Release

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and FamilySearch.org have announced a partnership about a project to preserve historical papers and publish them online. This ongoing digitization project will offer glimpses into never-before published papers of interest to genealogists with Pennsylvania roots. On 29 September 2014 on the FamilySearch blog, Paul G. Nauta published an article that is included below. It can be found at <https://familysearch.org/blog/>.

“The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP; online at hsp.org), one of the largest and most comprehensive genealogical centers in the nation, and FamilySearch (online at FamilySearch.org), a nonprofit premier family history and records preservation organization, announced a joint initiative to digitally preserve select collections of the historical society’s vast holdings, starting with compiled family histories. The project is now underway, and the digitized documents will be accessible for free at FamilySearch.org.”

David Rencher, FamilySearch’s chief genealogy officer, said, “The richness of the collection at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania cannot be overstated. It simply is the best collection of resources for studying the history and people of Pennsylvania—period. The vision to collect and preserve these historical documents for many decades gives HSP and FamilySearch a unique opportunity to increase the knowledge and awareness of this priceless historical gem.”

“Founded in 1824 in Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest historical societies in the United States. It is home to some 600,000 printed items and more than 21 million historical manuscripts and graphical items. Its unparalleled collections encompass more than 350 years of America’s history—from the 17th-century to the contributions of its most recent immigrants.”

“The initiative will digitally preserve and publish online the society’s many genealogies and local histories, family trees, and related family documents and manuscripts that contribute to the understanding of many family histories. Collections of particular interest might be those of Pennsylvania’s founding families, including William Penn and others.”

“Some of the society’s holdings date back to before the Revolutionary War. The rare histories include family papers, cataloged photographs, genealogies, African-American collections such as a history of the Dutrieuille family and related families, a cookbook compiled by Ellen Emlen during the Civil War in 1865, Jewish resources, sources about daily lives in the history of the United States, and much more.”

Check for updates and online publication of

Pennsylvania’s historical documents through FamilySearch.org and hsp.org, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES PLAN TO DIGITIZE HOLDINGS

The following post, written by David S. Ferriero, appeared 9 October 2014 on the Archivist of the United States blog (<http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=5717>).

The [National Archives’ Strategic Plan](#) includes a simple, but audacious initiative: to digitize our analog records and make them available for online public access. We have over 12 billion pages of records, so yes, this is our moon shot. To achieve this goal, we know we need to think in radically new ways about our processes, and we have started by creating a [new digitization strategy](#). From the time we published our 2008 digitization strategy through today, we have scanned over 230 million objects. This is a huge number, but we have a long road ahead. Our new strategy pushes us further.

We know we cannot do all of this by ourselves. We will continue to collaborate and build on efforts with private and public organizations to digitize records, as well as branch out to citizen archivists, other federal agencies and institutions worldwide. We will develop clear processes and technologies to support a workflow from staff digitization efforts, as well as ensure that records arriving at NARA are accompanied by standardized metadata, and make them available online in a shorter period of time.

We will set measures and track progress for each of these approaches, because we believe we can make digital access happen and we will hold ourselves accountable for doing so. Take a look at the [full strategy](#) and tell us what else we need to know: digitization@nara.gov.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY FOR DIGITIZING ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

[Editors' Note: This plan appears in its entirety at <http://www.archives.gov/digitization/strategy.html>. It was posted in September 2014. It has

information and ideas anyone can use when considering how to digitize their own material.]

Introduction

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the Government agency that identifies, preserves and provides access to the U.S. Government's vast holdings of archival materials. These records are selected and preserved to protect Citizens' rights, ensure government accountability and document the national experience. Our archival holdings number more than 12 billion pages of unique documents in all formats and media, including analog and electronic material, maps, charts, aerial and still photographs, artifacts, and motion picture, sound, and video recordings. The records we hold belong to the public and our mission is to drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation's democracy through public access to high-value government records.

This ***Strategy for Digitizing Archival Materials for Public Access, 2015-2024*** derives from the [*U.S. National Archives and Records Administration Fiscal Year 2014-2018 Strategic Plan*](#) and our goal to expand public access to our important historical holdings through digitization. Our Strategic Plan articulates that the National Archives strives: (1) to provide access to the most important records of the Federal government; (2) to establish public access as NARA's core purpose and (3) to maximize NARA's value to the Nation. Digitizing NARA's archival and important historical materials is integral to achieving these goals and our continued success. In developing this document we examined NARA's digitization efforts and activities over the past decade, considering those areas in which we have enjoyed successes, as well as those areas in which there are opportunities for improvement or changes in direction or focus. Furthermore, the insights and comments of NARA's stakeholders, both internal and external, have been invaluable and are reflected in this document.

Scope

This document outlines our strategy to digitize the vast and diverse range of permanent records that are stored and available to the public

throughout NARA's nationwide system, including our Washington, D.C. archives buildings, regional archives facilities, federal record centers, and presidential libraries. Separate from our efforts to address permanent records in our custody that are "born digital," the focus of this strategy is how we plan to make our analog records available to the public online as quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively as possible.

The strategy thus puts forth a comprehensive, system-wide approach to NARA's digitizing activities.

Digitizing Objectives

NARA has identified the following objectives for digitizing our holdings for public access:

- Provide online access to an increased number of our holdings.
- Make our digitized material and metadata available in our online catalog for reuse on other platforms.
- Maximize our value to the nation by encouraging private industry and others to utilize our digital content in new and creative ways.
- Enhance preservation of records by reducing wear and tear on the originals. While digitizing for access has some preservation benefits, it is not the same as preservation digitizing. We will not destroy or de-accession any originals that are digitized for access.
- Provide access to those materials that can no longer be accessed in their original format.
- Maximize the efficient and effective use of resources to carry out digitization and achieve cost-saving benefits whenever possible. For example, original records that have been digitized may, if appropriate, be relocated to less expensive archival storage locations. Partnerships, where the partner provides resources for digitizing, expand the scale of digitizing beyond what NARA itself can do. Digitizing high-use records improves ease of access, while decreasing the cost of providing access to records.
- Improve our service to customers consistent with their evolving expectations and with consideration of NARA's

available resources.

- Promote equitable access to Government information by the public.

Current Public Access to Online Content

To ensure that users everywhere can access all of our digitized records, we will continue to make NARA's Online Catalog (OPA) a hub for discovering NARA's collection of records. OPA is available on our web site, <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>, and currently contains series-level descriptions of more than 85% of our permanent records, as well as more than 2,000,000 digitized copies of our holdings.

Although most of our holdings are currently available only at the archival facility in which they are stored, our digitization efforts are continuously increasing public access to our records. Through OPA, our customers, regardless of their proximity to our holdings, will have access to digital copies of NARA records on the web. Furthermore, OPA will provide them with the essential archival context of the digital images.

Definition of Digitizing for Public Access

For the purposes of this document, "digitizing" should be understood not just as the act of scanning an analog document into digital form, but as a series of activities that result in a digital copy being made available to end users via the Internet or other means for a sustained length of time. The activities include:

- Document identification and selection
- Document preparation (including preservation, access review and screening, locating, pulling, and refiling)
- Basic descriptive and technical metadata collection sufficient to allow retrieval and management of the digital copies and to provide basic contextual information for the user
- Safety of the material being digitized
- Digital conversion
- Quality control of digital copies and metadata
- Providing public access to the material via online delivery
- Providing online ordering for reproduction services at quality or

quantities beyond the capacity of an end user

- IT infrastructure capable of sustaining long term growth, storage, and preservation of digital copies and metadata
- A management system that ensures adequate processes and controls to protect the authenticity, reliability, usability and integrity of the digital copies

Approach to Digitizing

NARA will use a combination of five approaches to strive towards our strategic goals and make our holdings available online:

- *Approach One* – To date, digitization partnerships have delivered the vast majority of online content available through OPA. NARA has shown that partnerships with private, public, non-profit, educational, and Government institutions to digitize and make available holdings can be a powerful model.
- Partnerships will continue to be a large contributor to our online content. The majority of the records digitized through partnerships have been genealogical in nature. To expand upon this success, NARA will cultivate and attract additional partners from other fields and different business models, which will encourage the digitization of a greater diversity of our collection. These partners may perform digitization themselves, or provide funding for NARA to manage the digitization process, or propose other paradigms. Given the breadth and complexity of NARA's holdings, we will continue to be flexible and open to multiple types and structures for our partnerships.
- To ensure that NARA maintains its public trust, NARA established a set of principles to guide partnership agreements that it continues to follow. These principles are found at the end of this document. See our web site at <http://www.archives.gov/digitization/> for a list and description of current partnerships into which NARA has entered formally.
- *Approach Two* – On a daily basis,

researchers come to NARA facilities and digitize permanent records. The challenge facing NARA is to leverage the public's interest and digitization activities to populate our online catalog. NARA will establish and publish standards, such as technical and metadata, for use by the public if they wish to contribute their records to our catalog. NARA will pursue multiple tactics to engage the public to share their digitized copies of our records. These tactics could take many forms, but three possible options are:

- Establishing a Contributor status for individuals interested in donating images and metadata in the appropriate format to NARA
 - Crowdsourcing digitization by providing scanning stations for use by the public in NARA research rooms
 - Soliciting digitized material from researchers and authors
- *Approach Three* – NARA will encourage agencies to transfer digital copies of analog material they have scanned for inclusion in OPA as access copies. We will support agency digitization efforts by providing defined metadata elements for such transfers. With appropriate standards and metadata, digital access copies of unrestricted archival records will flow efficiently into OPA and will be made available to the public. Electronic records that are transferred to us for permanent retention are outside the scope of this document.
 - *Approach Four* – NARA will create a culture of digitization. All internal digitization of unrestricted archival records will be included in the online public access catalog. By incorporating a focus on online access into our work processes, NARA will ensure images can be efficiently added to our catalog. Business processes for archival digitization will incorporate technical and metadata standards as well as a mechanism at the outset to ensure that content can flow seamlessly into OPA.

All workflows, including preservation reformatting and vendor and grant recipient digitization, will also be utilized. NARA will also continue to gather and make available on the web archival materials that we have already digitized in the course of performing our agency functions.

- *Approach Five* – NARA will conduct digitizing projects on its own with materials that may not be suitable or appropriate for partnerships. For example, we might digitize our "treasure vault," or at-risk material that only NARA can handle, or high-interest materials for which no partner can be found. These projects could take a variety of forms, with a variety of funding sources. This digitization will also serve as a key preservation action for providing access to fragile and/or high demand records, obsolete formats and deteriorated records. In these cases, digitization ensures that the records will be available in the future.

Prioritizing

This strategy does not intend to enumerate specific sets of holdings and identify the order in which they should be digitized. Our holdings are too vast and our users too varied to do that in any meaningful way. Rather, this document establishes, at a high level, basic principles for prioritizing our efforts:

- Candidates for digitization projects will be prioritized according to established criteria for significance and use.
- Candidates for digitization projects will be prioritized in order to achieve a demonstrated high priority preservation benefit for the agency.
- Funding is available or likely to be available and sustainable for the project.

In order to manage and publicize our efforts and to serve as many user groups as possible, NARA will maintain an agency-wide public list of its approved digital projects. Although these projects will be developed and implemented by a variety of NARA units throughout the country, we will strive to manage them as a coherent, coordinated portfolio of products and services. This list also will be available on our web site at www.archives.gov/digitization/.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 18 November 2014 **Annual Roundtable Discussion**

NHG Members

If you missed last year's, you missed a great exchange of information and ideas! Join the group as we ask questions of each other and share information on anything in genealogy. Remember, no question is too basic or obscure. We are here to help each other!

Saturday, 6 December 2014 **Holiday Social**

NHG Members

Come and tour the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. Originally it was a memorial to those who served during the Civil War, but the scope was changed to include all wars. The tour starts at 10:00 a.m. After the tour we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant, Dutch treat.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 21 October 2014 **Land Records**

Rich Hayden, NHG Tip Time Leader

Hayden will take us through the steps involved in finding our ancestor's land. He will discuss the Allegheny County deeds, probate records, and partition plat maps. After putting all of these records together, we will see how to locate the land on old and new maps using Historic Pittsburgh and Google Earth.