

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

## NHG NEWS

### Special Interest Groups

NHG is forming Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to provide an additional education opportunity for members. The idea is that each SIG will focus on a particular topic—an ethnic group, a state, a type of record, et cetera.

We had sign-ups at the August meeting. So far the topics with the most interest are German and Irish research. You'll have another opportunity to sign-up for the SIGs at the September meeting. You can also sign up by sending an email to [Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org). Please type *Study Groups* in the subject line. When you sign up, include any topic or topics in which you have an interest.

The NHG board plans to facilitate the formation of the SIGs, but will need volunteers to run the groups. Instead of having Tip Time at the October meeting, we will use that time to organize the SIGs. Each one will need to select a chair and decide on a meeting schedule. If you are willing to act as a SIG leader, please indicate that when you sign-up.

### Old Economy Field Trip

Our next NHG field trip will be to Old Economy Village. Plan to meet at 10:30 A.M. at the Visitor's Center at 270 Sixteenth Street, Ambridge, PA 15003 on Saturday, September 27th. The cost is \$9.00 per person. The topic featured for that day will be *The Fabric of Their Lives*. Crafters will be available to demonstrate how the fabrics and clothing were made during the years that the Harmonists lived there.

There will also be a tour of the gardens and some of the buildings in the Old Economy complex. Reservations have been made for lunch at 1:00 P.M. at Alexander's Restaurant, where you will

order from the menu and pay for your own lunch. Alexander's Restaurant is located at 720 Merchant Street between 7th and 8th Street in Ambridge.

A sign-up sheet for the NHG Field Trip to Old Economy will be available at the September meeting.

### Fall Conference Early Bird Registration Deadline

The early bird registration deadline for the Fall Conference is September 16th. After that day, the fees increase from \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members to \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, hot buffet lunch, and all workshop materials. The event will be held Saturday, 25 October 2014 at the Wildwood Golf Club, 2195 Sample Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 from 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.

The conference theme is *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: Praying for Records*. The sessions will 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 Hatching, Matchings, and Dispatchings". A question and answer session will follow the final presentation.

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## NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2013–2014

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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

Scientists doing DNA research have concluded that every European (and American of European stock) is related to every European who was living 1000 years ago and had offspring. This conclusion was reached based on DNA analysis and the fact that there were far fewer Europeans alive in 1100 AD than are alive today [Source: <http://phys.org/news/2013-08-dna-earth.html>]. Just because you and I are related to William the Conqueror does not mean that we are descended from him. And that also does not mean that we can trace a family link to any particular individual back then. Genealogists who are researching their families more than 700 years in the past are by definition related to the royal families of Europe, since those are the only records still available. The Hundred Years War (1337–1453) saw the destruction of most civil and church related records throughout Europe. Refugees and forced migrations removed a sense of place for many families and even whole regions.

Another interesting proposition is that most families whose ancestors were in New England during the colonial period are related to each other. Both my father's family (Boston, 1630) and my mother's ancestors (earliest: Rhode Island, 1640s) qualify. I believe, with high probability, that my parents are eighth cousins, both descending from the **Church** family of Hadley, Massachusetts (sadly, not the Mayflower **Churches**, but no doubt related back in England). When he heard this news, our son looked at me askance and said, "This explains a lot," even though eighth cousins share only one out of 2<sup>8</sup> genes (1/256). DNA testing will not resolve this conclusively because autosomal testing can only define a reliable probability of relatedness going back to fourth cousins or so. More samples (single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) (up to and including the entire genome) and better computational algorithms may ultimately push the reliable estimate to sixth cousins, but constant chromosomal recombining provides a hard limit on the length of viable comparable sequences.

Our daughter-in-law's maternal grandfather at one time traced his ancestors from western

Massachusetts back to Rhode Island in the mid-1600s, so I took a cursory look at published genealogies to see if our son and his wife were related. I concluded that the sibling of a spouse of one of our ancestors in Rhode Island married one of her ancestors. In other words, they are only related by marriage. When I told our son that news, his response was, "We already knew that!" The "DUH" was silent.

This all leads to the news that our son and daughter-in-law blessed us with another grandchild, a boy, five weeks ago. He joins his 19-month old sister. Since they live in Minnesota, we have travelled back and forth several times during the past three months. It's constant work to keep the family tree current.

~ Dave

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## **NHG NEWS (continued from page 11)**

The Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG, will present all four sessions. He is a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and a former director of the National Genealogical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists. McDonald has had articles published in a variety of genealogical journals and magazines in addition to previously editing the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's newsletter. His extensive research expertise and lecturing experience combine to make him an entertaining and informative speaker.

NHG will also host a Friday evening workshop presented by McDonald for an additional \$15 on 24 October from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. at the same location. The evening workshop, co-sponsored by the Association of Professional Genealogists-Great Lakes Chapter, is titled "Document Transcription, Analysis, and Research Plans". There is limited seating for the workshop. Refer to the brochure or the NHG website for additional program details for the Friday night workshop and the Saturday fall conference.

### **Genealogy Lock-in Scheduled**

Northland Library and the North Hills Genealogists have finalized plans for the next Genealogy Lock-In event to be held on Friday, 10 October 2014 from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. in

Northland's Computer Center.

Pre-registration is required for this free event due to a limited number of computers. The NHG-Northland Genealogy Lock-Ins have been popular events that fill up quickly, so please register soon. If you register and later discover you will not be able to attend, please let the library know. There is usually a waiting list for the lock-in.

To register, please email your name and contact information to [npladultserv@einetwork.net](mailto:npladultserv@einetwork.net) or call the Adult Services Reference Desk at 412-366-8100, extension 113.

Participants will be able to search several subscription databases during the lock-in. Northland has subscriptions to Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest Online and Access PA's various databases. Volunteers will be available to help you access the databases for your research. Participants will also have access to Northland's great collection of genealogy reference books.

If you plan to attend the October 10th lock-in, don't forget to bring a USB drive with you so you can easily save copies of any documents you find. Light refreshments will be served; hope to see you there!

### **Allegheny County Research Repository Field Trip Planned**

NHG is planning a field trip to the City-County Building and the County Office Building for Wednesday, November 12th. Amy Arner and Elissa Powell will provide one-on-one help to those going on the trip. The plan is to visit the Allegheny County Department of Real Estate (formerly the Recorder of Deeds) and the Department of Court Records, Wills/Orphans' Court Division (formerly the Register of Wills). The Department of Real Estate has deeds. The Division of Court Records has probate files, guardianships, and marriage licenses.

The records of both departments start with the formation of the county in 1788, although the marriage licenses start in 1885.

You'll need to keep several things in mind on the trip:

- Parking is expensive downtown. Plan to

carpool from somewhere in the North Hills so we can split the costs.

- We will break for lunch and eat at one of the restaurants near the City-County Building.
- The old records are dusty and dirty. If you have allergies, come prepared with the appropriate medication.
- Seating is extremely limited in all of the offices we will be visiting. If you have trouble standing for long periods of time, you may not be able to research all day.
- Table space is very limited in the Division of Court Records. Please keep the material you bring on the trip to a minimum.
- All visitors to the City-County Building must pass through metal detectors. It will be helpful if you have all metal objects in a purse or bag before you reach the detectors.
- Bring name and address labels to make ordering records easier in the Division of Court Records.

We will limit the attendance to eight people. If there is enough interest, a second trip may be added. To sign up, contact Carole Ashbridge at 724-687-0329 or [CaroleAshbridge@gmail.com](mailto:CaroleAshbridge@gmail.com). Space can be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

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## **VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES—BRINGING GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION INTO YOUR HOME**

Take advantage of an educational trend—learning from online webinars and classes. Although there is often a registration fee for virtual workshops, some are offered free. You have no cost for travel or lodging which is better than attending a live conference or event. You can work from home. Sometimes the lectures and classes are taped and can be viewed at your convenience. Included here are some examples of new and established organizations for online learning.

Three professional genealogists have launched the **Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research** (VIGR), the newest opportunity for

virtual learning. According to the press release of 9 September 2014 from Raleigh, North Carolina: “Professional genealogists Catherine W. Desmarais, CG, Michael Hait, CG, and Melanie D. Holtz, CG, are pleased to announce the formation of the Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research (VIGR). VIGR is a unique educational opportunity for genealogists of all skill levels.

The Institute will offer courses on a wide variety of genealogical subjects, providing “Vigorous” year-round education for the genealogical community using a virtual platform. Each course will consist of a total of four 90-minute lectures, two each presented on consecutive Saturdays, extensive syllabus material, and practical exercises. Limited class sizes of only one hundred registrants per course allows for a higher level of class participation and instructor feedback than typically offered by genealogy webinars.

Courses are planned around the topics of genealogical writing, advanced methodology, DNA testing and analysis, and cultural, regional, or record-based research strategies. Many of these subjects—as well as the depth of instruction—have never been offered in a virtual format and are ideal for genealogists around the world. “VIGR will allow genealogists who work a full-time job or have limited travel budgets to more easily advance their genealogical skills,” Institute co-administrator Melanie D. Holtz stated.

Registration for each course will cost \$69.99 and includes digital video recordings of all four lectures, available within two weeks of the close of each course.

For more information on the Institute and to register for upcoming courses, visit [www.vigrgenealogy.com](http://www.vigrgenealogy.com) and subscribe to the mailing list for updates on future courses.”

**FutureLearn** is a United Kingdom based organization partnered with Trinity College Dublin that features online learning about a variety of topics. Currently there is a six-week course about *Irish Lives in War and Revolution: Exploring Ireland's History 1912–1923*.

For more detail and registration information about this and other courses, visit this web site: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/>.

Organizations such as FutureLearn are geared towards a particular audience—in this case people with Irish roots—but just like any genealogical speaker, one can often learn methodology or new resources for use with family history.

**Family Tree University** provides online virtual events and many short-term classes. Go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com> and explore the site and the blog for updated information about courses and conferences the *Family Tree* Magazine sponsors. Twice a year, FTU offers a Virtual Genealogy Conference; whether or not you subscribe to Family Tree Magazine or its Plus site, there is usually a \$50 discount available for the Virtual Conference registration, which brings the cost down to \$8.50 per hour-long class.

In addition to the pre-recorded classes in the strands of Research Methodology, Ethnic Research, and Technology for Genealogists, the *Family Tree* Virtual Conference offers live chats several times each day, led by nationally known genealogical speakers. Questions are presented and multiple answers and solutions are offered. It is easy to access the sessions and other programming items—the exhibit hall and the Swag Bag, for instance—and there is always a tech person to assist you as needed. Message boards provide a forum for information exchange and networking. Another benefit of the *Family Tree* Virtual Conferences is that you can download and save each class and watch it again and again.

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars** are presented often with dynamic speakers on timely topics. For about \$40 a year, you can access the complete collection of archived webinars found at <http://www.familytreewebinars.com>. However, for about a week after the live airing of each webinar, anyone can go to the Legacy web site and access the most recent programs. The schedule is published well in advance so you can plan which sessions you will attend.

The **UK National Archives** has online learning and webinars on a diverse topics. Currently they are featuring six individual sessions related to Reading Old Documents with

an emphasis on deciphering old handwriting. A variety of sessions include the following topics: Palaeography, Beginner's Latin, Advanced Latin, Latin Palaeography, Roman Numerals, and Currency Converter.

In addition to great academic content, you can also access Further Practice with actual documents. Each session includes a link for Further Reading with closely related instructional topics. To register or read more information, click on <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/reading-old-documents.htm>. That illegible handwriting on your archival family letter or record might be readable after all.

Other places to access online learning related to genealogy include the **Southern California Genealogical Society's** Webinar series of free learning: <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>. You can also go to **GeneaWebinars** for the calendar of online events and workshops; this listing is found at <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html>. Remember to check back often with **FamilySearch**, <http://www.familysearch.org>, **Ancestry.com**, and **Cyndi's List**, <http://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars/> for updated information and a variety of free and fee opportunities to learn online.

Virtual learning is not only more cost effective than attending a regional or national genealogy conference, but these online learning events are convenient, at your own pace and interactive.

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## QUERY

### BARNDS-DUNLAP

Seeking information on the marriage, probably in the 1830s, of Daniel **Barnds** and Elizabeth **Dunlap** (daughter of James **Dunlap** of Ireland and Beulah **Burroughs**). Marriage may have occurred in the area where Allegheny and Fayette Counties meet at the river near Brownsville. Daniel may have had a brother Charles who lived in the Lycoming area. Beulah's family may have been Quakers who lived in Greene County. Contact Cam Barnds at [cdbarns33@yahoo.com](mailto:cdbarns33@yahoo.com), 913-381-3944, or 8101 Mission Rd. Apt. 133, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

### 19–21 September 2014 FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY

FTU's Fall 2014 Virtual Conference will feature fifteen recorded presentations and six live chats. This is an opportunity to learn about technology, research strategies, and ethnic research from the comfort of your own home. The cost is \$199.99. *Family Tree Magazine* subscribers and *Family Tree Magazine* VIP Program members are eligible for a conference discount. More information and a link to register are available at <http://www.familytreeuniversity.com>.

### Saturday, 20 September 2014 10:00 A.M. HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The History Center is offering a Family Archives Workshop at the Museum Conservation Center just behind the Heinz History Center this Saturday. This is the Grand Opening of the Conservation Center. For details, refer to <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.aspx>. The Family Archives Workshop will be “hands-on, focusing on preserving your family’s history and primary documents.” The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members and pre-registration is required. For more details, contact Barb Antel at 412-454-6450 or [bjantel@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:bjantel@heinzhistorycenter.org).

### Saturday, 20 September 2014, 1:00 P.M. FAYETTE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Kimberly Powell will present “How to Use DNA in Genealogy” at the next meeting. It will be held on the second floor of the Uniontown Public Library, 24 Jefferson Street, Uniontown. For more information, please visit <http://www.fcgspace.org>.

### Wednesday, 24 September 2014, 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

NHG's Rich Hayden will present “Lesser Known Resources” 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>.

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

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

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

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

### Saturday, 4 October 2014, 9:30 A.M. SUMMIT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In conjunction with the Akron Public Library's Special Collections Department, the Summit County Chapter is sponsoring an all day seminar featuring Paul Milner. He will present “English Parish Registers: How to Access, Use, and Interpret”; “Buried Treasures: What's in the English Parish Chest”; “Are You Lost? Using Maps, Gazetteers, and Directories for British Isles Research”; “Irish Emigrants to North America: Before, During, and After the Famine”; and “Finding Your Ancestors in Ireland”. Lunch is on

your own. This free event will be held in the Main Library Auditorium, 60 South High Street, Akron. For more information, please visit <http://www.summitogs.org>.

**Saturday, 4 October 2014, 8:30 A.M.**  
**TARENTUM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Tarentum and the Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society are holding an all-day conference at the Clarion Hotel, 300 Tarentum Bridge Road, New Kensington. The featured speakers will be Margaret A. Diamond on genealogy and copyright; L. Suzanne Kellerman on the Pennsylvania Newspaper Digitization Project; and David R. Grinnell on "Historic Pittsburgh." The registration fee includes a hot buffet lunch. For more information and a registration form, please visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~patgs>.

**Sunday, 5 October 2014 10:00 A.M.**  
**HEINZ HISTORY CENTER**

Italian Heritage Day, as a part of the celebration of Italian Heritage Month, will be held at the Senator John Heinz History Center on October 5th for families with a focus on activities for children and teens. This interactive event will encourage intergenerational participation and offer the chance to learn to play bocce, learn to cook traditional Italian meals, take language lessons, explore Italian genealogy research, and enjoy Italian art and music. Programs are explained on the web site at <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.aspx>. All children 17 and under are free for this event, which takes place throughout the entire Heinz History Center. For more information, contact Melissa Marinaro at 412-454-6426 or [memarinaro@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:memarinaro@heinzhistorycenter.org).

**9–12 October 2014**  
**AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The theme for this year's conference is *Weaving Our Past, Present, and Future: Slavery, Abolition, Freedom, and All That Jazz*. The event will be held at the DoubleTree Pittsburgh

in Green Tree (500 Mansfield Avenue, 15205). The schedule includes sessions on church records, DNA, migration, and researching slaves. There are optional tours on October 8th and 9th. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.AAHGS.org>.

**20–24 October 2014**  
**2014 BRITISH INSTITUTE**

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History's annual institute will be held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. It features four classes: "From Simple to Complex: Applying Genealogy's Standard of Acceptability to British Research" with Thomas Jones; "Researching Your Irish Ancestors" with David Rencher; "Scottish Research: The Fundamentals and Beyond" with Paul Milner; and "Welsh Family History Made Simple" with Darris Williams. More information is available at <http://www.isbgfh.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>.

**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 <https://www.fgsconference.org> for more information.

## LINKS FROM NHG MEETING HANDOUTS MADE AVAILABLE

Did you know that NHG Social Media Chair Carole Ashbridge maintains a list of helpful links on NHG's website? After each meeting, she will add any links from the speaker's handout to the list. In some cases the speakers have given us permission to link to a PDF version of the slides from their lecture. To access the links, go to

<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org/links.php>. Near the top of the page is a list box labeled Filter by Category. Click on the arrow at the right side of the box. This will open a small list where you can choose a category. The links from the meetings all start with the word Meetings.

In addition to the links from handouts, Carole has collected a variety of other links. You can find other local genealogical and historical societies, local genealogy resources, blogs, libraries, and more. Check it out!

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## NGS ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF *GENEALOGY AND THE LAW*

*Press Release (Partial)*  
2014

26 August

Arlington, Va. – The National *Genealogical Society* announces the release of *Genealogy and the Law: A Guide to Legal Sources for the Family Historian* by Kay Haviland Freilich, CG, CGL, FNGS, and William B. Freilich, Esq. *Genealogy and the Law* guides readers through the variety of legal sources that genealogists need in order to explain many of the events that occurred in their ancestors' lives. Land ownership, estate administration, and taxation are a few of the many aspects of life that cannot be fully understood without knowledge of the law in effect at the time.

The authors, an award-winning genealogist and an attorney, both with long service in their professions, bring the perspectives of genealogy and the law together in a book that covers the language of the law, how to find pertinent laws, the kinds of sources available, where they can be found, citation of legal works, and how to apply legal research to genealogical problems.

After September 1, it can be ordered from the NGS store at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. Copies of the book are expected to be ready for shipment by October 1.

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## RESEARCHING WORLD WAR I ANCESTORS

*By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor*

In the past month, more World War I resources have appeared online as centenary commemorations occur. Historic photos have been digitized in a variety of sources and provide eyewitness documentation to the war and its impact on the world.

The *New York Post* has published historic World War I images with caption information on their site, <http://nypost.com/>, titled *100 Years Later: World War I Remembered*. The images illustrate the conditions, weaponry, technology, and devastation of the war. Genealogists can access them for background information about WWI or to illustrate an ancestor's efforts and service during the war.

The United States' National WWI Museum, located in Kansas City, Missouri, started to collect documents and artifacts as early as 1920 from all nations that were involved in WWI. Today over 75,000 items make up the collection; the primary sources housed at the museum are quite extensive, offering a comprehensive look at the era. This collection has been digitized and is available online in a searchable database: <https://theworldwar.org/explore/online-collections-database>.

Universities as well as historical societies are publishing their collections and documents in honor of the 100th anniversary. One such collection is found through the University of Wisconsin's Digital Collection online at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/History.WWIColl>. These items were obtained during and immediately after WWI and have been maintained since then.

The Library of Congress has documents, photographs, music, newspapers, and more in a digitized and searchable collection:



<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/wwi/wwi.html> - External. Be sure to click on the link for *External Web Sites* to access the list of the best information about WWI.

Genealogists can focus their search for all ancestors alive during WWI—soldiers and civilians—by searching certain collections in the databases of [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) and [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). On FamilySearch, click on the Catalog and then do a Keyword or Subject Search for *World War I*. The results of that search yield both indices and collections of military and civilian records, military histories, obituaries, and other records.

Use World War I in a keyword search on Ancestry.com to uncover a list of collections related to WWI. Some titles of these searchable collections are: *British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920*; *U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*; *British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920*; and *British Army WWI Pension Records, 1914–1920*. When accessing records in digitized collections, remember to click on the image.

WWI records will continue to become available through digitizing efforts; check back often to the sites for updated information. Take your WWI genealogical research a step further by writing and preserving as much information as you can obtain about the war efforts, civilian life, and the resulting global changes.

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## REMINDER: DATES ON EARLY RECORDS VARY FROM MODERN CALENDARS

*By Sharon Cimoch, NHG Member*

Dates on old records can be misunderstood if they fall between January and March 24. That is because of the switching from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. This switch occurred initially in 1582 in some European countries. Some nations maintained their use of the Julian calendar as late as 1927. For the exact year that each country switched, refer to the chart on this widely used time and date website [http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-](http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html)

[gregorian-switch.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html).

Because the English calendar before 1752 most often utilized Lady Day or March 25 as the first day of the calendar year, the system of double-dating was employed for certain periods of time, depending upon the country. This practice could have an impact on vital dates for ancestors' records.

An example of what this switch between the two calendars means is this: any date between 1 January and 24 March might be listed as 1639, as 1640, or as 1639/40. It is recommended to record both years when necessary.

What should a genealogist do with data such as this: "John, the son of John Evarts, was born (at Concord) on 29-12-1639"? In this instance, "12" means the twelfth month, or *February* (because under the system in place in 1639, March was the first month of a year, and therefore February was the twelfth month). The 29th of February would have been a Leap Day, which should not have existed in a year not divisible by four. This rare case allows us to resolve the double-dating problem because the date must actually be 1640, so the birth date is 29 February 1639/40 in this case.

Unfortunately, genealogists need to keep in mind the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar and its potential impact on recorded dates.

There are some reliable and easy to use resources online to assist in recording correct dates of ancestors from the old country. Three great sites that include a basic, understandable overview of the calendar switch are:

Search for Ancestors:

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/gregorian.html>

Calendar Differences:

<http://www.vpcalendar.net/Difference-Between-Julian-and-Gregorian-Calendar.html>

*Family Tree Magazine:*

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Converting-Julian-Genealogy-Dates/>

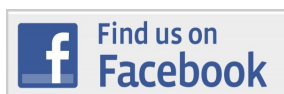
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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Tuesday, 21 October 2014** **Land Records**

*Rich Hayden, NHG Tip Time Leader*

Hayden will take us through the steps involved in finding your 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.

### **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!

### **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 16 September 2014** **Patriot or Not? A Case Study Using the Genealogical Proof Standard**

*Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL, NHG Book Marketing Chair*

After introducing the Genealogical Proof Standard, the audience will solve four research questions. Using evidence presented, the group will determine the conclusion. This lecture is a story of what constitutes an exhaustive search, proof, and conflicting evidence, as well as techniques (time lines, spreadsheets, and other analysis tools) that help us see the answers in the gathered information.