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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.

We have several Special Interest Groups so members can collaborate informally to learn about various topics and ethnicities.

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

When you examine an ancestor's life story, do you ask why he would have left one place to follow a particular migration route? Was he a younger son who might not have received a portion of the family farm when his father died? Did another relative go ahead and send word that there was land to be had? Did they travel with family and friends to a new location? Were they living in a city that was becoming overcrowded? These are all important questions to consider and can lend focus to your family history research.

There might be many reasons for a family to pull up stakes, knowing they might never see their loved ones they left behind. The best way to approach your migratory ancestors is to trace their migration by starting from they ended up and then working backwards, using census records and land, tax, and legal records from where they finally settled to determine where they started. This process will eventually lead you to an almost exact trail that was followed.

Last month I covered some of the early migration routes that ran along the Eastern coast of the United States. A number of roads developed during the Revolutionary War were used extensively for troop movement, for transporting goods and livestock, and of course for access to new land for thousands of new immigrants from Europe. Most of these roads have continued to be used and are now well-known highways.

Braddock's Road – In 1753, George Washington was ordered by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to find the best overland route to Fort Duquesne and to order the French commander to "Get out of Virginia" (actually Pennsylvania). When Washington got there, he wrote in his journal about various travel routes, keeping in mind the need for a suitable wagon road. He was also commissioned as a lieutenant colonel and recruited citizens as colonial soldiers to bolster the British troops against the French. The British army financed the mustering of the troops and road construction.

In 1755, General Edward Braddock supervised the building of a wagon road through Maryland and Pennsylvania using Washington's suggested

routes. It connected the Potomac River at Cumberland, Maryland, with the Monongahela River at Turtle Creek (an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh), passing Fort Necessity in the mountains. At times, as many as 3,000 men were engaged in the road building. Braddock insisted the road measure twelve feet wide to allow horse-drawn wagons to haul supplies for his advancing army. This was a great undertaking, since it was the first road crossing overland through the entire Appalachian Mountain range. Try to imagine what a challenge this had to be! The road was successfully completed, but due to poor military tactics, Braddock failed in his military mission. His troops were completely surprised and overrun by Indians supported by the French. His troops dispersed, and Braddock was mortally wounded, dying near Fort Necessity. He was buried in the middle of his road, and then wagons were driven over his grave so that Indians wouldn't attempt to disturb his final resting place.

Forbes Road – In 1758, General John Forbes decided to develop another road north of Braddock's, because the Indians soon heavily defended that first road. Forbes' idea was to sweep down on the French, surprise them, and take over the Point. He used up to 4,000 troops to build this road at Laurel Hill through to Pittsburgh, but once there, he found the French had blown up Fort Duquesne and abandoned the Point. The Point of Pittsburgh remained in the hands of the British-Americans and was renamed Fort Pitt.

The modern route of Forbes Road is generally the same as the Pennsylvania Turnpike, beginning at Harrisburg with a number of historic forts built by Forbes' troops along the way. These include Camp Hill, Carlisle Barracks, Fort Loudon, Fort Littleton, Fort Bedford, and Fort Ligonier. At the Tuscarora Mountain where the turnpike makes use of a tunnel, the Forbes Road diverges somewhat to U.S. Highways 30 and 522 across the Laurel Mountains. This area was the biggest challenge for the Forbes Road construction.

By 1763, the British had successfully removed the French from all but New Orleans and a couple of forts on the St. Lawrence River. The

western boundary of the thirteen colonies in 1763 was the Mississippi River. The Braddock and Forbes Roads were major routes from the King's Highway to the forks of the Ohio and opened the way to a one-hundred-year land boom.

An interesting piece of trivia: while George Washington was with both Braddock and Forbes, he noticed the strategy used by the Indians to avoid direct confrontations with colonial troops. Later he was able to use these tactics against the British with great success. Another person of note traveling with Braddock and Forbes was a young Pennsylvanian named Daniel Boone, who was about the same age as Washington.

The Pennsylvania Road – The Indians' Allegheny Path runs along the Schuylkill River to connect Philadelphia with both Harrisburg and another Indian trail, and the Raystown Path continues on to Pittsburgh. Together the two roads cover much the same distance as the future Pennsylvania Turnpike.

The first overland road began as early as 1725 near Lancaster and then on to Harrisburg. In 1733, money was approved for the Great Conestoga Road, completed in 1741 and later part of the Pennsylvania Road. The state legislature in 1792 set up a turnpike road company to oversee the general route, outline standards for the engineers, and allow a system for legally obtaining rights-of-way across the state. On the whole, the turnpike roads were well located and well built. Included were requirements for the turnpike's width and composition of the berm areas. These were sometimes called "plank" roads (Butler's Plank Road for example) or "corduroy" roads, because the rough-rimmed wooden surface resembled corduroy. The wood ran perpendicular to the direction of travel to reduce the risk of wagon wheels or horses getting stuck in mud.

When the Lancaster Pike opened to traffic in 1794, the toll charge was a penny per mile with higher charges for heavier loads. The Lancaster Pike at first only returned about 2 percent of the costs to construct the road, but as the western part of the state evolved, profits increased. Later, the Pennsylvania Legislature allowed the turnpike to extend west to Pittsburgh along a route close to the Forbes Road.

The Upper Road – The Upper Road began as an Indian trail called the Occaneechi Path. It was traveled primarily by the Indians for trading. As settlers came into the middle of Virginia, they too began to use the path to trade with the Indians. It was actively used between 1700 and 1750 as an important wagon route for southern migrations into the Carolinas.

The Upper Road was also called the Carolina Road, branching off from the King's Highway at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and heading south through Hillsboro and Charlotte, North Carolina, then into South Carolina. The Upper Road was nicknamed "Rogue's Road" due to the use of it for illegal trade and attacks from livestock thieves. After 1740, the Upper Road was offered as a route for safe travel to the southern Carolinas. This road was used during the Revolutionary War to move troops south for the Battles at Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, and Cowpens.

~ Sharon

Suggestions for further reading:

Early American Roads and Trails, by Beverly Whitaker, MA (Kansas City, Missouri: no publisher, 2002).

Migration Patterns in the United States by Beverly Whitaker, MA (No place: Heritage Productions, 2003).

Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735–1815 by William Dollarhide (Bountiful, Utah: Heritage Quest, 2000).

U.S. Migration Routes map from *Family Tree Magazine*, March 2008
(www.familytreemagazine.com).

NHG SIG NEWS

At their January meeting, **Pennsylvania SIG** members discussed Ellis Island and its role in immigration to the United States, the Carnegie Library's naturalization project, and the benefit of road trips to historical societies and genealogical groups. Their next meeting will be held 24 February at 6:00 P.M. at the Shaler Public Library.

The next **German SIG** meeting will be Saturday, February 20 at 9:00 A.M. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1965 Ferguson Road, Allison Park.

During their January meeting, the **British Isles SIG** held a round table and talked "all things genealogy." Their next meeting will be 2 March 2016 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Catherine of Sweden Church, Room 113.

The **Writing SIG** will meet 27 February 2016 at a location to be determined. During their last meeting, the members discussed writing up the stories of their ancestors. They also talked about how each writer has their own voice and that editing can wait until after the story is on paper. Contact Dave Egelston at r.egelston@verizon.net for more information about this SIG.

The **Eastern European SIG's** next meeting will be held Monday, March 21st at 6:30 P.M. in the Northland Library's Board Room. The topic is to be determined.

For contact information, please refer to the Special Interest Groups section of our website, www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

ROOTSTECH SESSIONS (continued from page 51)

Searching is the other dominant subject of many of the 2016 RootsTech lectures. Both FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com were featured in lectures about how to refine searching skills to break down obstacles to genealogical success and answer research questions about ancestors. Advanced searching skills were also included within the lectures. Robert Kehrer, a senior project manager for FamilySearch, spoke about "Finding Elusive Records on FamilySearch.org." Most interesting was the section about how to best locate, narrow down the list, and then access the 70 percent of images on FamilySearch that are unindexed collections. By using filters, you can avoid the time-consuming task of browsing image by image within the collections that are not yet indexed.

Anne Mitchell presented a lecture about how to "Become a Master Searcher on Ancestry", and it is included in the RootsTech 2016 video archive. Mitchell reviewed options for using the search page—sometimes filling all blanks and other times simply including a few pieces—to filter the Ancestry results. She explained how genealogists who form a research question or write a research

goal can then customize the search page, or access the card catalog, or pinpoint a specific collection group first, prior to using the searching features. In effect, these methods showcase various ways to focus the search to achieve the goal or answer the question.

Additional RootsTech 2016 videos include presentations by more well-known genealogical speakers such as D. Joshua Taylor talking about PERSI, Lisa Louise Cook updating methods for Googling, and Maureen Taylor discussing clues in photos that can lead to identifying missing cousins. Get inspired by author Paula Madison's discovery of her unique heritage, listen as Amy Crow presents the best websites and apps for family history research, or learn about cemetery crowdsourcing, virtual family reunions, and scanning photos.

If you start soon to work systematically through the archived lectures, you can learn from the best speakers and clever innovators for free from your home. Your research will benefit from watching all of the RootsTech 2016 lectures.

ETHNIC CORNER: ITALY

By Rich Venezia, NHG Vice President

The Italian immigrant experience is one that over 17 million Americans can trace. But all too often, time has forgotten the very ancestors who brought us here. We eat their gravy (or sauce, depending on where you're from) and we stare into their eyes on the wall, but they are too often nameless—or, even worse, story-less. This is not for want of trying. Most Italians who came to this country wanted to Americanize as quickly as possible. They remained fairly true to their Italian roots, but their children spoke English, they naturalized quickly (some even declaring their intent the week they arrived), and they pursued “The American Dream” with all their might. “Fare l’Americana”—“to do America” was an actual verb phrase in Italian. Holding steadfast to their cultural mores, they were doing what was best for their family—to assimilate, to acclimate, to acculturate.

When searching for an Italian ancestor's place of origin, the best place to look is ship manifests. These glorious documents can tell us both an

immigrant's place of last residence and place of birth (often one and the same), as well as who they left behind, who they were traveling to, and even a physical description. Failing those, naturalization records are a good second bet. It was important to Americanize, and so the majority of Italians who remained permanently became US citizens. Naturalization records post-1906 should include a declaration of intent and a petition for naturalization, both of which may include an exact place of birth and an exact date of arrival—which can then be used to find elusive ancestors in ship manifests. In Pennsylvania, naturalization records can often be found with the Prothonotary's Office or at a county archive. Naturalizations could have taken place in either a federal or a county court. If immigrants lived in a city with a federal district court, it's extremely likely they naturalized there. Luckily for those with Pittsburgh ancestors, the Western Pennsylvania District Court naturalization records are available on Ancestry.com and Fold3 (www.fold3.com). The records from 1930 and later are held at the National Archives in Philadelphia. Alternatively, if an ancestor naturalized between 1906 and 1956, these records can also be obtained through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

USCIS also holds some A-files (Alien Files) and AR-2 (Alien Registration) forms, which are of particular interest to those with Italian descent. During World War II, non-naturalized residents of Italian, German, and Japanese descent became “alien enemies” with a stroke of FDR's pen. This status created numerous genealogically rich documents, which may include an immigrant's exact place of birth, a photo, information on their nearest (or overseas) relatives. What's held by USCIS and what's held by the National Archives varies, so it's prudent to research before ordering an index search. For more, see www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2013/spring/a-files.pdf.

Searching for specific Italian-American records like those created by the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) may prove fruitful, as well. Pennsylvania OSIA records are available on Ancestry.com. Records of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA) are held at the Thomas & Katherine Detre Library & Archives at the Senator John Heinz History Center.

FamilySearch has been microfilming records in Italy since the 1940s. Collections are both digital and available on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City or for ordering to a local FamilySearch Center. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland is a FamilySearch Center. There are also centers in Cranberry, Plum, and Green Tree. While the records for every town (*comune* in Italian) have not been filmed, the collection is large. For perspective, eight of my sixteen known Italian ancestral villages lack coverage . . . but at least five of those are slated to be available online within the next few years. It's FamilySearch's mission to have all civil records from every Italian *Archivio di Stato* online within two to three years.

Now, what's an *Archivio di Stato*? The answer is Archives of the State. There are one hundred provinces and ten independent cities in Italy. Each has their own *Archivio di Stato*, and sometimes several. Theoretically, each *Archivio di Stato* holds *Stato Civile* records from each *comune* within the province. These are civil records of births, marriages, and deaths. *Stato Civile* are the best Italian records to start with when researching Italian roots, as they provide information on when and where a person was born, the names of their parents, perhaps their church of baptism, their father's occupation, and even an address—and that's just on a birth record!

In order to get the most out of Italian records, a basic comprehension of Italian is a must. However, Italian uses the Roman alphabet, so it's much easier than, say, Russian or Hebrew. Some records, especially church records, are in Latin, so it's handy to have a grasp of that, too. A "Genealogical Word List" is available through the FamilySearch Wiki at www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Italian_Genealogical_Word_List. It's imperative that you read and understand the entire record, as there are clues throughout. For example, it's important to look at those witnessing the events—they are likely to be relatives or neighbors. More than one date can be indicated—one will likely be the date of the event and the other the date of the registration. Marginal notes (especially in birth records) can lead to other records, such as for marriages, remarriages, or deaths. Records

often name grandfathers, but not in the most straightforward of ways. For example, 'Giovanni Russo di Lorenzo fu Bartolomeo' means that Giovanni Russo was born to Lorenzo, whose father was the (now deceased) Bartolomeo.

In addition to FamilySearch, some Italian *Stato Civile* records can be found on Il Portale Antenati [The Ancestors Portal], the official website of the Italian National Archives (www.antenati.sanbeniculturali.it/en). Some of the pages have been translated to English, which is a huge benefit for those of Italian descent with little knowledge of the language. The records themselves, though, are in Italian. Some digitized Italian records on FamilySearch can only be viewed whilst at the FHL or a FamilySearch Center due to contractual obligations. Most records that fall under those restrictions can be viewed for free on Il Portale Antenati.

Catholic parish records theoretically date back to 1595—or earlier—in Italy. Most of these records are only held locally, within the church itself and/or in the archdiocesan archives of the area. FamilySearch has microfilmed quite a few church records, so it's possible a town of interest may have some ecclesiastical records. Italian church records are an extremely diverse record set—some are handwritten exclusively, some are pre-printed forms with sections that are handwritten. Some are in Latin exclusively; others borrow some Italian (or French) along the way. Many are indexed, many aren't. It's hard to write a brief "how-to" for Italian church records because there are as many idiosyncrasies as there are *comuni*. The best thing to do is to familiarize yourself with the records of the parish of interest by determining how they are laid out and what information is typical of records at a certain time. For instance, it may not be clear in a particular record what the order of information is or perhaps the handwriting is hard to decipher. Looking a few pages ahead of and behind that record should provide clues. Facebook groups and other online platforms abound for assisting others with translations and hard-to-decipher handwriting, so those with two left tongues need not fear.

Researching on-site in Italy can add documents galore, and unforgettable stories, to the family collection. Exhaust all areas of research in the US

first, leaving no microfilm unspun and no digital collection un-browsed. To research in Italy, a firm grasp of Italian is a must. A translator could be a worthwhile investment—especially in areas where the dialect is a far cry from standard Italian, such as Sicily or Naples. Patience is also a virtue, as archives close for lunch, records are held off-site and need to be ordered, or the records needed are actually only held in the offices of the *comune*—any number of snags may come up. The wonders of an Italian archive, though, are well-worth any inconvenience—notarial records, catasti (akin to censuses), military records . . . ancestors are just waiting to be found.

If researching in Italy, a trip to *l'archivio* is *perfetto* when paired with a pilgrimage to an ancestral village. Chances are someone will know something about the family, even ones that left a hundred years ago. Surnames, for instance, can stay in one place for generations. While talking to a coffee shop owner in Baronissi, I mentioned that I was related to the Piro family. He promptly informed me that I was in the wrong town—that the Piro family was in Capriglia, a *frazione* [neighborhood] in Pellezzano, the next town over. I knew from records that the man was correct. What other gems might locals know? Perhaps a family member is the mayor or a prominent figure in town. Perhaps an old relative still survives, a cousin to a grandparent or great-grandparent. My Italian teacher in my last Italian immersion course in Salerno had the same surname as my maternal grandfather—we're distant cousins.

The tradition of family above all else, brought to this country with our Italian immigrant ancestors, shines true in Italy to this day. It doesn't matter whether the relation is two years ago or two hundred years ago; *famiglia è famiglia*. A trip to an ancestral town may very well wind up in a scenario Italian-Americans know all too well: around a large table, crammed for space, glass of wine in one hand and fork in the other. There's plenty at the table, and while the space is small, the love is abundant.

Editors' Note: Rich will be the speaking about Italian research at NHG's August meeting.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tuesday, 23 February 2016 4:00 P.M. ZELIENOPE AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NHG Newsletter Co-editor Sue Ennis will lead a series of four, free genealogy workshops at the Zelienville Area Public Library again this year. All levels of family researchers are welcome. Topics will include Ancestry.com, searching tips, new resources, and preserving stories. Each session will begin with a fifteen-minute overview of information and tips, followed by independent or collaborative work on a participant's own genealogy. It is recommended to bring a laptop or tablet, but this is not required. For details, go to www.bcfls.org/#!/zelienville-area-public-library/c17d.

Wednesday, 24 February 2016 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

Stephanie Kean, the new Indexing Director at the Cranberry Family History Center, will present a class about FamilySearch's indexing projects. A Genealogical Tip Time will be held after the lecture. More information is available at www.cranberrygenealogy.org.

Thursday, 25 February 2016 6:30 P.M. HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The Heinz Center's Museum Conservation Center will hold "Family Archives: Discovering, Organizing, and Preserving the Stories They Tell" as a workshop. Join Mary Jo Sonntag, author of *Write, If You Live to Get There*, and Barb Conner, manager of the conservation center, will discuss how to handle, organize, and store your artifacts and documents. The cost is \$30 for History Center members and \$35 for non-members. For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Tuesday, 8 March 2016 4:00 P.M. ZELIENOPE AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NHG Newsletter Co-editor Sue Ennis will lead a series of four, free genealogy workshops at the

Zelienople Area Public Library again this year. All levels of family researchers are welcome. Topics will include Ancestry.com, searching tips, new resources, and preserving stories. Each session will begin with a 15-minute overview of information and tips, followed by independent or collaborative work on a participant's own genealogy. It is recommended to bring a laptop or tablet, but this is not required. For details, go to www.bcfls.org/#!/zelienople-area-public-library/c1t7d.

Saturday, 12 March 2016 10:00 A.M.
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next WPGS meeting will feature Rebecca Kichta Miller as the speaker. She will present "Writing a Family Story: Literally and Technically." The meeting will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. The meeting is free and open to the public. Parking in the Carnegie Museum lot is \$6.00 for the day. Watch www.wpgs.org for more information.

18–19 March 2016
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HSP will hold its Family History Days at their facility and the Double Tree Hotel in Philadelphia. It will feature lectures on a variety of topics. Each day there will be a Breakfast for Beginners for an additional fee. For more information, please visit www.hsp.org.

Saturday, 19 March 2016 9:00 A.M.
HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The Heinz Center's Detre Library and Archive and the Westmoreland County Historical Society (WCHS) are co-sponsoring an Irish Genealogy Workshop. Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation will present five lectures on Irish research plus hold a question and answer session. There will also be a presentation about genealogical resources at the Detre Library and WCHS. The cost is \$30 for History Center members and \$40 for non-members. For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

Thursday, 24 March 2016 6:00 P.M.
BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Immigration research will be the focus of a lecture at the library. This lecture will cover passenger manifests, naturalization documents, and research techniques. It will be held in the library's Basement Meeting Room. To sign up for class, call the Weir Genealogy Room at 724-287-1715 x116 or e-mail baplgenealogy@bcfls.org. For more information, please visit www.butlerlibrary.info.

Saturday, 26 March 2016 11:00 A.M.
FORT PITT MUSEUM

The museum will hold a day of presentations about Indian captivity. "Flesh of Our Flesh, Bone of Our Bone" will feature Jeremy Turner, a Shawnee tribe member, and Dr. R. Scott Stephenson. The program will include a discussion of narratives by Indian captives. For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt.

Thursday, 21 April 2016 6:00 P.M.
BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Barb Conner, Conservation Services Manager at the Heinz History Center, will present ways you can preserve your family archive. The meeting will be held in the library's Basement Meeting Room. To sign up for class, call the Weir Genealogy Room at 724-287-1715 x116 or e-mail baplgenealogy@bcfls.org. For more information, please visit www.butlerlibrary.info.

28–30 April 2016
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The annual OGS conference will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. The theme for the conference is "Tracking Your Ancestors." The program brochure and a registration form, along with other information, are available at www.ogsconference.org.

Saturday, 30 April 2016 9:00 A.M.
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-editor, will present a lecture focusing on using Ancestry.com Library Edition. The lecture will be held in the Franklin Station Room. It will combine mini-lectures with hints for searching Ancestry.com with hands-on exploration in a collaborative setting. It is recommended to bring your own technology, but a limited number of computers will be available. This free lecture does require you to register with the library at www.cranberrytownship.org/index.aspx?nid=830.

4–7 May 2016
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The annual NGS conference will be held at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The theme for this year's conference is *Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time*. Each day will feature ten lecture tracks. For more information and to register, please visit <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.

12–17 June 2016
INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

This institute is held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Ten courses covering a wide range of topics will be offered. Registration is open, although three courses have waiting lists. Visit <http://samford.libguides.com/ighr> for more information.

26 June–1 July 2016
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration is open for the first week of GRIP. Six courses will be offered: *Family Archiving: Heirlooms in the Digital Age*, *Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy for the 21st Century*, *German Research Resources*, *Master the Art of Genealogical Documentation*, *Pennsylvania: Research in the Keystone State*, and *Women and Children First! Research Methods for the Hidden Members of the Family*. Visit

www.gripitt.org for more information.

12–14 July 2016
MIDWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY INSTITUTE

The fourth year of this institute will be held at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It will feature four tracks: Fundamental Methods and Strategies, DNA & Genealogy, Intermediate Genealogy—Pre & Post Slavery Era Research, Genealogy Writing from Planning to Publication. More information is available at www.maaginstitute.org.

15–16 July 2016
MIDWESTERN ROOTS

Details are still being finalized for this year's conference, which will be held at the Marriott East in Indianapolis, Indiana. Watch www.indianahistory.org for more information.

17–22 July 2016
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for the second week of GRIP opens Wednesday, March 2nd, at noon Eastern. Seven courses will be offered: *Advanced Research Methods*, *Advanced Genetic Genealogy*, *Diving Deeper into New England: Advanced Strategies for Success*, *From Confusion to Conclusion: How to Write Proof Arguments*, *Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper*, *Practical Genetic Genealogy*, and *Resources and Strategies for Researching Your Italian Ancestors*. Visit www.gripitt.org for more information.

1–5 August 2016
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HSP has announced a week-long class on Pennsylvania research. The title is “Researching Family in Pennsylvania.” Details are still being finalized. Watch www.hsp.org for more information.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 15 March 2016 **Taming the Beast: Keeping Your Data in the Cloud without Losing Control**

Reed Powell, NHG Treasurer and Webmaster

Powell will give a presentation on off-site storage for your computer files. “The Cloud” is where more and more of our data is stored—but how can we control what we cannot touch and see? File Syncing vs Sharing vs Backup? How do you most effectively use the commonly available services?

Tuesday, 19 April 2016 **Organizing for Genealogists**

Debbie Billeter, NHG Member

Billeter will discuss how to file and store papers, record what you know (logs), determine what you still need (research plans), access information remotely (Cloud), and take searchable notes (Evernote). Included are a few tips about what to bring with you when going on a research trip.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 16 February 2016 **Crafting a Compelling Family History Narrative from Start to Finish**

Lisa Alzo, MFA

Want to write your family's story but don't know where to begin? In this webinar, presented by professional writer Lisa Alzo, you'll learn the basics of crafting a compelling family history narrative in simple, manageable steps. Examples and a list of suggested writing exercises will be provided.