



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

ANCESTRY.COM DISCONTINUES FAMILY TREE MAKER

On 31 December 2015, Ancestry.com discontinued sales of the well-known software *Family Tree Maker*. A transition of one year is offered, during which Ancestry will “continue to support existing users.” NHG will monitor the evolution of this software situation and offer solutions in upcoming newsletters and at upcoming meetings. Two great sources for more information right now are to search for “Best Genealogy Software 2016” using Google and read reviews or link to this article: www.lisalouisecooke.com/?s=family+tree+maker.

PENNSYLVANIA VITAL RECORDS ADDED TO ONLINE COLLECTION

Keeping up with newly digitized, indexed, online records takes time. Due to ongoing lower costs of digitizing records and dynamic volunteer efforts, it is much quicker in 2016 for entire collections to be organized for online access than it was just five years ago. If you don't have access to Ancestry.com, be sure to check with individual state archives to verify which record groups are available.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, found online at www.phmc.pa.gov, recently added several important vital record updates to their Archives under the link “Research Online.” The online index to *PA Birth Certificates* added 1910 births from across the state. That means that there is now free access to the Birth Indexes covering the years 1906–1910. Click on the appropriate link, which is the year of birth. Then, click on the alphabetical list, organized by surname, to review the information about a registered birth. Efforts to add to this collection are ongoing.

The *PA Death Certificates* records group has also

expanded with the addition of certificates from 1965. This expands the PA Death Certificates records to cover all years from 1906–1965. Again, the indexes are organized first by year of death and then alphabetically by surname.

On the same web page, scroll to notice labeled image examples of the various index records, information about requesting certified or uncertified copies of vital records, and brief but informative blurbs about what vital records were collected, years, and record group data. Another way to access these PA Vital Records is to use the main search bar from the PHMC website, inserting key words such as *PA births*.

One grass roots organization that is working diligently to make a difference in preserving vital records is a not-for-profit organization originated in 2015 by Brooke Schreier Ganz, a California genealogist. This new organization is Reclaim the Records and can be found at www.reclaimtherecords.org. Advocating strongly for “public data for public use” Reclaim the Records accepts requests stating what record group needs to be digitized, preserved, and/or made available to the public. The main goal as stated by Ganz on the website is “regaining access to public information being kept by state and local government entities.” These records groups are often overlooked in genealogical research, yet a single item from such a record group often reveals detailed data about not only the life recorded, but also about relatives.

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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 I started researching my ancestors, I was only concerned about their names, relationship to me, and where they lived. Eventually, I realized there was much more to their history than just names and places. I wanted to know why they would leave a perfectly good home to travel hundreds of miles to an unknown wilderness. For example, once I found a family on various census records, and I was able to trace their journey from one place to another. That process gave me insight into the various migration routes that they would have followed as they moved from place to place. Those migration routes were the trails on which I decided to do more research. If you're going to write about your ancestors for future generations to read, you might consider doing the same thing to make it interesting enough to hold the attention of your family members. In the next few months, I'm going to attempt to offer you some insight into how and why many migration routes came into being. You might want to get out your atlas, as these are easily followed on a map.

The following are some of the early New England and Eastern coastal routes available in the mid-to-late 1600s and into the early 1700s. The first settlements were limited to the Atlantic coast or short distances up navigable rivers. This was because of the threat of hostile Indians, impassable mountains, and little need for more living space. Roads for wagon travel were limited to the coast or rivers such as the James, Hudson, and Connecticut. Also, the woods were dark and foreboding to the Puritans who equated the darkness to evil.

Any available trails were little more than buffalo, deer, or Indian paths, only wide enough for a horse and rider or a person on foot. It was decades before trails were improved enough to carry wagons or stagecoaches, so sailing ships remained the primary mode of travel between the various colonies well into the 1750s.

Boston Post Road – About 1673, a crude riding trail was created specifically for mail service between Boston and New York and was called the Boston Post Road. It followed what is today the Massachusetts Turnpike from Boston to Springfield and down the Connecticut River to

New York. For many years this was not a wagon road but merely a trail only used by mail carriers or other horsemen.

Other local overland roads of no more than twenty or thirty miles eventually branched out from the major seaport cities like Boston and Philadelphia. In addition to the short routes, there were three separate mail routes. The first round trip was over 250 miles and could take a total of four weeks to navigate. This upper northern route went through Boston, Massachusetts into Connecticut and through Rye, New York, and New York City. Another route of 225 miles went from Boston and Dedham, Massachusetts, through New Haven, Fairfield and Greenwich, Connecticut, and also to Rye and New York City. The longest and southern route was 270 miles and stretched from Boston and through Rhode Island and Connecticut to Rye, Kingsbridge, and New York City.

The first stagecoach service began in 1772 and was able to make these same trips in about one week. For a portion of a stage journey over particularly rocky roads, the carriage would be replaced by a crude wagon without springs as a safety factor, since a vehicle with springs would have turned over and crashed. Where the traffic was known to be light, passengers might be transferred to a chariot drawn by only two horses as an economy factor. Springfield, Massachusetts, was an important junction point since this was where the traders' trail culminated from Albany, the colonial fur center.

The King's Highway – By the 1750s, the King's Highway was a continuous route from Boston (including the Post Road) to Charleston, South Carolina, but it was only passable in good weather. Otherwise, travelers might have had to wait weeks for the muddy roads to dry. The King's Highway also became a major route for militia during the Revolutionary War and a mustering point for several battles including the final Yorktown battle. Since the name "King's Highway" came into disfavor during that time, the name Boston Post Road was used for many sections of the road, but parallel side roads might still exist with the old name.

Modern roads follow this route closely. From

Newark, New Jersey, to Trenton, it follows the New Jersey Turnpike, and from there moving southwest, the Interstate 95 highway closely follows across the Delaware River. A boat could be taken between Philadelphia and New Castle, Delaware, this way, but then a portage on the King's Highway would be necessary to travel between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River. The Susquehanna River also had to be crossed before that route reached Baltimore. In the middle of the 1600s, my ancestor, Augustine Herman, who owned thousands of acres of property in Cecil County, Maryland, suggested building a canal connecting these two waterways, but the canal wasn't built until about 150 years later. It would have made that part of the trip much easier.

This route then follows Interstate 95 to Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; and Interstate 65 to Norfolk, Virginia. Eventually it follows the coastline through North Carolina into Charleston, South Carolina. To make things even more difficult, in the beginning, where we now have many bridges, it was necessary to negotiate swamps and tidewater areas in Virginia and the Carolinas, because the route was so close to the Atlantic Ocean.

The King's Highway from Boston to Charleston, South Carolina was a distance of 1,300 miles; by traveling an average of twenty to thirty miles a day, the journey on that migration route took at least sixty days.

The Ohio Company and the French and Indian War – In 1746 a trading company called the Ohio Company was created by investors in Virginia, including that colony's Governor Dinwiddie and George Washington's half-brother Lawrence along with several other influential Virginia gentry. It was eventually a driving force behind the French and Indian War and the development of wagon roads opening up previously inaccessible wilderness areas.

The Company financed traders to go overland from Alexandria to Pittsburgh and then into the Ohio country to exchange goods with the Indians for furs. The Ohio Company paid more for furs disrupting the French monopoly on their previous lucrative business with the Indians. In 1752, Indian tribes joined the British to raid

French trading posts but the French retaliations led to great losses to the Ohio Company's profits.

French territory called "New France" consisted of trading forts west of the Appalachian Mountains from Montreal to New Orleans. In 1753 the Ohio Company learned the French were erecting new forts from Erie south including Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio River. This fort in particular was located in the most critical and strategic crossroad for French or British control of territory north and west of the Ohio River. Whoever controlled Pittsburgh and the forks of this river would dominate the northwest. The Ohio Company realized this was a serious threat to their interests so they and Governor Dinwiddie influenced the British to support a war with France leading to the French and Indian War of 1754–1763.

Next month's President's Corner will cover routes during the Revolutionary War years and the migration patterns into the southern colonies.

~ Sharon

Suggestions for further reading:

Early American Roads and Trails, by Beverly Whitaker, MA (Kansas City, Missouri: self-published, 2002).

Migration Patterns in the United States by Beverly Whitaker, MA (Toronto: 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).

PA VITAL RECORDS

(continued from page 41)

So far, very good! Reclaim the Records began last year by working through the legal system and utilizing language from the Freedom of Information Act to succeed in gaining free public access to the "Index to New York City Marriage Applications, Affidavits, and Licenses, 1908–1929", a potential gold mine of ancestral information during the height of early 20th century immigration!

Another record group currently being prepared for digitization after Reclaim the Records successfully obtained access for the public is "New Jersey Birth, Marriage, and Death Indices, 1901–1903 and 1901–1914". Additional record groups pending full access and digitization include the "Index to New York City Marriage Records, 1930–2015", "New York City Birth Certificates, 1910–1915", and "Index to New York State Deaths (Outside of New York City), 1880–1956". Genealogists should check back at least once a month for status updates on the website for Reclaim the Records.

Anyone may submit a request to Reclaim the Records, asking for access to a known, but unavailable record group. Their volunteers are eager to continue to announce how to access new record groups from other states as their services evolve.

Relying on just one or two databases in order to unveil ancestors and their stories might not be enough. Learn about lesser known record groups and the "keepers" of those vital records in state and county archives, historical society collections, and government agencies.

NHG SIG NEWS

At their December meeting, **Pennsylvania SIG** members discussed a variety of topics, from Ancestry.com's discontinuation of the *FamilyTreeMaker* software to Elizabeth Shown Mills' *Evidence Explained* and how useful it can be in crafting citations. Wills were discussed, as well as how local historical societies can be helpful in providing information. One member wanted to know more about locating death records pre-1906, and newspapers, libraries, and FamilySearch were all suggested as places to look into as possible sources for these records. The next meeting will be 27 January 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Shaler Public Library.

At the last German SIG meeting, ten members met hear a report about the German Silvester (New Year's Eve) celebration in Harmony and looked at the book *Land of the German Empire* by Wendy Uncapher. They also reported on their successes and failures in reaching the goals set at their last meeting in October. Those who did not attend the October meeting recounted how their

research is going. The next 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 December meeting, the **British Isles SIG** talked about numbering their ancestors. Their next meeting will be 3 February 2016 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Catherine of Sweden Church, Room 113.

The **Writing SIG** will meet 23 January 2016 at the home of Diane and David George. Assignments proposed for this next meeting were to A) Pick an ancestor and write a few paragraphs or pages of this person, using a timeline and citing each source or B) Interview a relative during the holiday season, showing them old photos, heirlooms, etc., and write up the interview as a narrative. Contact Dave Egelston at r.egelston@verizon.net for more information about this SIG.

At the **Eastern European SIG's** next meeting, they will discuss their top ten genealogy goals for 2016—specific or manageable tasks, so then the group can think about what skill, tool, or alternative search methods might help solve a piece of the puzzle. The meeting will be held Monday, January 18th at 6:30 P.M. in Northland Library's Board Room.

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

FREE ONLINE EDUCATION AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT 2016

Winter has arrived in Western Pennsylvania after weeks of teasing that it would not! Even if you are unable to drive to local and regional repositories during the winter season, access a variety of interesting, free options for learning about what's new, how to research, and new findings and trends in genealogy.

There are some one-time genealogical events where you can participate from home. The annual **RootsTech Conference** in Salt Lake City, Utah, is set for 3–6 February, 2016. Even if you cannot attend this event in person, it offers

all genealogists free access to several of the lectures online at www.RootsTech.org. These lectures are available via live streaming at set times and as archived links to the presentations after the fact.

Over the past two years, RootsTech has maintained its archive of workshop videos for the entire year after the conference ends! The same is planned for 2016. At this time, click on “2016 Classes” from the main page of RootsTech; this will reveal a complete list of session titles, presenters, and a brief summary of the content. Watch the RootsTech 2016 website at the end of January as organizers reveal which sessions will be live streamed and recorded for their video archive.

Several organizations sponsor a free webinar series of programs, usually offering one per month. The genealogical organizations most consistently offering webinar presentations include **Legacy Family Tree**, the **Southern California Genealogical Society**, the **Illinois State Genealogical Society**, and the **Florida State Genealogical Society**.

If you want, you can sign up with the organization using your name and an e-mail address to receive periodic announcements and reminders for scheduled webinars. The most common way to access these online lectures is by registering with your name and an e-mail address for that specific program. The messages you receive after registration will be directly related to that specific webinar. It is common to receive three e-mails in reference to any webinar for which you have registered: a confirmation e-mail, a reminder message on the day of or day before the scheduled program, and a reminder about one hour prior to the start time.

Most webinars use a similar format for the program. First a member of the stated organization will greet participants, offer guidance, and monitor questions. Then that member will introduce the lecture topic and presenter. The presenter then speaks from twenty-five to fifty minutes to present coordinated audio and visuals about the topic. Near the end, the society member will return to facilitate a session of questions and answers, and usually ends by announcing upcoming webinars.

Some even offer door prizes for randomly selected listeners!

Listed below are brief details about how to access the free lectures from each organization and a partial schedule of upcoming events. Note that archived webinars are only available for a limited time unless you are a member of the genealogical society, however anyone can participate in the live webinars. Live broadcast times vary but most commonly occur in early afternoon or evenings.

Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series

Legacy has a diverse slate of well-known genealogical experts who present equally varied topics relating to genealogical research. The web address for Legacy Family Tree Webinars: www.familytreewebinars.com. At this time there are sixty-one live webinars scheduled for 2016 and a webinar library of 290 past programs. You can register for any upcoming live webinar for free and then tune in about fifteen to twenty minutes ahead of the scheduled starting time to participate. Be prepared to take some notes!

Upcoming Legacy Family Tree topics and dates:

Jan. 20th – *The Basics of Virginia Research*, Shannon Combs-Bennett

Jan. 27th – *The Paper-Less Genealogist*, Denise May Levenick

Jan. 29th – *Seven Unique Technologies for Genealogy Discoveries at MyHeritage*, Mike Mansfield

Feb. 10th – *The Scots-Irish in America*, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Feb. 17th – *Getting Started with Microsoft Word*, Thomas MacEntee

Feb. 19th – *Problem Solving with FANs*, Beth Foulk

Feb. 24th – *A Guided Tour of Cyndi's List 2.0*, Cyndi Ingle.

Southern California Genealogical Society

Navigate to SCGS's website at www.scgsgenealogy.com, locate the *Programs* link, and click below on "Webinars" to learn about upcoming and past workshop presentations. SCGS always offers a few free archived webinars to non-members, but the live sessions are the only way to ensure your participation.

Upcoming Southern California Genealogical Society topics and dates:

Jan. 20th – *Making YDNA and mtDNA Part of Your Family History*, Diahna Southard

Feb. 6th – *Scanning and Photo Retouching for Beginners*, Tom Underhill

Feb. 17th – *The Family Historian's Publishing Primer*, Nicka J. Smith.

Illinois State Genealogical Society

By locating the ISGS website at www.ilgensoc.org, you can click on *ISGS Webinars* link to find the topics, speakers, dates and times of upcoming programs, usually held on the second Tuesday evening of every month. All webinars start at 8:00 P.M. Central Time. Once again, only ISGS members can access the archived webinar videos at any time, so join the live event.

Upcoming Illinois State Genealogical Society topics and dates:

Feb. 9th – *Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process*, Drew Smith

Mar. 8th – *Researching in Archives and Libraries: Do's and Don'ts*, Melissa Barker

Apr. 12th – *Letters, Ledgers, and Lodge Books: Finding Ancestors with Ethnic Resources*, Lisa Alzo.

Florida State Genealogical Society

The theme of the monthly webinar series offered by FSGS is "Poolside Chats: A Genealogy Webinar Series". These genealogical lectures are free when viewed live, and available anytime to members. Held the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 P.M. Eastern time, the FSGS webinars offer presentations on a variety of current topics. One extra bit of information provided by FSGS is an abstract of the upcoming webinar along with presenter bio and website.

Upcoming Florida State Genealogical Society topics and dates:

Jan. 21st – *Your Ancestor Was...Occupations of Our Ancestors*, Nancy Waters Lauer

Feb. 18th – *Family History – From a Pile of Pieces to a Puzzle Picture*, Donna M. Moughty.

Finally, there is one more worthwhile program from **Family Tree Magazine's Genealogy University** to mention; in winter and fall seasons, FTU offers a three-day Virtual Genealogical Conference for \$199.00, about half

the price of national conferences. (Register at www.familytreeuniversity.com by 5 February 2016 and use the coupon code EARLYVCWINTER for \$40 off the conference registration.) This year's winter conference will be 11–13 March 2016.

The *Winter 2016 Virtual Conference* features 15 half-hour video classes in four tracks: genetic genealogy, genealogy technology, research strategies, and ethnic research. There are also scheduled chats led by well-known speakers, and there are other great features that simulate attendance at a live conference. The best part about the four tracks of classes is that you can attend all programs in all tracks, unlike a live conference where you must choose one program over another. All handouts are included with the registration fee.

Make a resolution in 2016 to benefit from the wealth of free, online genealogical education!

ETHNIC CORNER: ENGLAND

Genealogists with English ancestors are fortunate, particularly if those ancestors immigrated in the mid-nineteenth century or later. Not only are the records in, well, English, but England has some records similar to those of the United States. These include decennial censuses and civil birth, marriage, and death records.

England's census enumerations were taken in years when the year ended with a one (1881, 1891, etc.). The first mostly extant census dates from 1841. This is the first English census in which all members of the household were listed. Earlier censuses only listed the heads of households. Most of the pre-1841 census records have been lost. The most recent census available to researchers is that of 1911. Several websites provide access to the English census records. FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) has free searchable indexes for all of the censuses from 1841 through 1911. They have free digital images of the records for 1841, 1851, 1871, and 1881. Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com) and Findmypast (www.findmypast.com) both have searchable indexes and digital images for all eight census enumerations. Note that Ancestry and Findmypast are subscription websites.

England started requiring the civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths in September 1837. These records are arranged by event type (birth, marriage, or death), then location (called a registration district), then yearly by quarter (January, February, March; April, May, June; July, August, September; and October, November, December). The indexes are arranged the same way. Fortunately, a volunteer effort called FreeBMD (www.freebmd.org.uk) has abstracted the information from the indexes and put it into a searchable database. The database search results provide all of the information you need to order a copy of the record. You'll need the name of the person, the quarter, the registration district, the volume, and the page.

Fortunately for genealogists, copies of the civil birth, marriage, and death records are available to the public. Anyone can request a copy of one without jumping through a lot of hoops. The original records are not available for researchers to examine, however the certificates provided are photocopies with the original handwriting, not typed transcripts. The General Register Office is the agency that has custody of these records and provides copies. Their website is www.gro.gov.uk. In the middle of the page there is a link called "Order certificates online". You will need to create an account on the website to place an order, however the account is free. The cost for a copy of a record in £9.25, which is about \$13.50 at today's exchange rate.

Another excellent source for researchers are church parish records. These records are from the Church of England. Starting in 1538, priests were to record the christenings, marriages, and burials in their parishes. Many of the parish records still survive. The tricky part with parish records is that you need to know where your ancestor lived in England. If you can identify the town or a part of a county using other records, you can work towards identifying which parish church your ancestors attended. The easiest way to identify the parishes in an area is with an atlas or a gazetteer. The *Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* by Cecil R. Humphery-Smith has maps of each county showing parish boundaries. There is also an index in the back listing all of the parishes by county. Each entry has the dates for the extant registers, which registration district the parish was a part of, and other useful

information. The website GenUKI (www.genuki.org.uk) has a searchable gazetteer. This is particularly helpful if, for instance, you can only read part of a parish name in another record. The gazetteer lists the parishes associated with a location.

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the parish registers from England. They have started digitizing these records at FamilySearch. You do need to know the name of the parish. The digitized collections are arranged by county (Cheshire, Norfolk, Kent, and so forth). If you cannot find your ancestors in the digitized records, search the catalog to see what other records are available.

A variety of websites provide useful information about research in England. The FamilySearch Wiki (www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Category:England) has how-to articles about many aspects of researching in England and the records available. GenUKI (www.genuki.org.uk) has articles on research, links to repositories in England, and more. Ireland and United Kingdom GenWeb (www.iukgenweb.org) is like the USGenWeb, where the content varies from county to county. The Genealogist (www.thegenealogist.co.uk) is a subscription website with a variety of digitized records from England; there is some free content. The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) has a section devoted to family history with guides about the records in their collection useful to genealogists.

A good book about British research is *Ancestral Trails* by Mark Herber. There are two editions, one published in 1997 and the other in 2004. The earlier edition does not cover online research. The 2004 edition is somewhat dated in this regard, but is still valuable for learning about what kinds of records exist—particularly for topics beyond the basics. Northland Library and several other libraries in Allegheny County have copies of the second edition that can be checked out.

NHG CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in the planning stages for the NHG 2016 Fall Conference. If you are interested in serving

on the conference committee, please send an e-mail to Conference Chair Amy Arner at Conference@NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Monday, 25 January 2016 1:00 P.M. MT. LEBANON GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The group will watch the video “Five Reasons You’re Not Finding Your Ancestor” and then discuss the information covered. The meeting will be held in one of the conference rooms on the lower level of the Mt. Lebanon Library. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society.

Thursday, 4 February 2016 6:00 P.M. BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ancestry Library Edition will be the focus of a lecture at the library. This lecture will cover basic and advanced search techniques for genealogical research. 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 haplgenealogy@bcfls.org. For more information, please visit www.butlerlibrary.info.

3–6 February 2016 ROOTSTECH

This conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The schedule and registration information are available at www.rootstech.org. Rootstech will provide free live-streaming for some of its lectures, however those details have not been announced yet.

Saturday, 13 February 2016 10:00 A.M. WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The next WPGS meeting will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. The program is to be announced. The meeting is free and open to the public. Watch www.wpgs.org for more information.

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.

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.

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

Registration for IGHR opens 19 January 2016 at 11:00 A.M. Eastern. This institute is held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Ten courses will be offered. Visit <http://samford.libguides.com/ighr> for more information.

26 June–1 July 2016

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for the first week of GRIP opens Wednesday, February 10th, at 12:00 P.M. Eastern. 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.

17–22 July 2016

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for the second week of GRIP opens Wednesday, March 2nd, at 12:00 P.M. Eastern. Six courses will be offered: *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

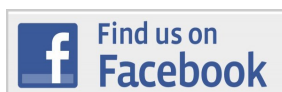
HSP has announced a week-long class on Pennsylvania research. The title is "Researching Family in Pennsylvania." Details are still being finalized. Watch www.hsp.org for more information.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

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.

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? He will discuss file

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM – Tuesday, 19 January 2016 **Researching Death Records**

Mary Dzurichko, NHG Program Chair

You would be surprised just how much information can be found in death records. NHG Program Chair Mary Dzurichko will speak on researching various death-related records, understanding what kinds of data can be found, and analyzing the findings for facts, clues, and new discoveries.

