

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

#### **NHG NEWS**

Help Wanted: NHG Program Chair/Co-Chair

We are still looking for a new program chair (or chairs). Good communication and organization required. Duties include contacting possible speakers and scheduling their program dates; obtaining program synopses from the speakers, posting them to the NHG website, and providing them to Northland Library three months in advance for advertising; arranging for the necessary equipment for the program with Northland Library in advance of each meeting; and providing a brief monthly report to the NHG board. Organizing the December Holiday Social and luncheon is also one of the responsibilities. For more information, contact Mary Dzurichko at a meeting info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

#### NHG Election

It's time for NHG's annual election of officers. There is a ballot on page 89 of this newsletter. There will also be ballots available at the May and June NHG meetings. Please submit your ballot by 30 June 2016. You can hand in a ballot at an NHG meeting or mail it to NHG, PO Box 169, Wexford, PA 15090.

#### Bonus NHG Meeting

NHG is sponsoring a bonus lecture in June. Lisa Arnold will present "Quakers and their Records" at 7:00 P.M. on **Monday, 27 June.** Arnold will address a variety of questions about Quakers, including:

- Who were the Quakers and where did they come from?
- Are they the same as Pennsylvania Dutch or the Puritans or maybe the Amish?
- Why did they use numbers for days of the week and the month?

Why were they called Quakers? Is that the official name?

This lecture will be held in conjunction with the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, also known as GRIP. The lecture will be held on the **LaRoche College** campus in College Center Square. Enter the campus from Babcock Boulevard and follow the Family History signs.

### Northland Library Lock-in Review

NHG and Northland Public Library held their spring library lock-in on Friday, May 13th. Twenty-four genealogists gathered to share their passion for our hobby. Or is it an addiction? Attendees spent time using Northland's computers to work on their own research, using free websites and subscription sites like Ancestry.com. Volunteers from the NHG board circulated to help attendees with the websites and provide suggestions for research.

Another lock-in is planned for this fall, although the date has not been set. Watch the NHG newsletter for information.

#### NHG Fall Conference

NHG is pleased to announce that the speakers for this year's conference will be J. Mark Lowe, cg, and Deborah Abbott, PhD. The conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 21st and 22nd, 2016. We will use the same format as last year—a workshop on Friday afternoon, a workshop on (continued on page 84)

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#### NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016

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For more information:

**Publicity Tables:** 

Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

Newsletter ideas and feedback: Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

#### 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

Spring is finally here, the days are warmer and everything is in bloom. Every year about this time my mind turns to research trips; where do I want to go, and how long can I stay? Also, I have lots of families to search for; it is just the question of whom to research that becomes my big dilemma.

At the last meeting, NHG member Debbie Billeter gave an excellent presentation. Among other things, she spoke about filing and storing your research, useful forms available, and keeping your information in the Cloud and in Evernote. She only briefly touched on how to prepare for a research trip so I thought I would go into more detail by using some of the experiences I've had in my travels.

When planning a genealogical research trip, start by looking online for the local courthouse, libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies that may be available neighborhoods you want to research, and, if you're going to a capital city, the location of the state archive. You will find that just about every one of these repositories will have their own website telling you what resources they have and how to access them. If a number of these sources are located in the same general vicinity, then you may want to spend more time there. If there is a card catalog on their website, look for your ancestor's name and for any other information such as locations, churches, city directories or related families. I print out any pages that might pertain to my search to take along with me. That way I know ahead of time what books I can look for; then I eliminate the page if it is not about my family. Make sure you look at everything that repository has to offer and make a note of options so that planning your schedule is easier. The more a place has to offer, the longer you may want to stay there to conduct research.

There are various free forms available from Family Tree Magazine and other sites that you can download and complete ahead of time. The one I use the most in this case is a Research Repository Checklist. (Just type in "Family Tree Magazine Free Forms" to a search engine, and you'll find not only that checklist, but also many other free forms that will be invaluable for your record keeping.) The Research Repository

Checklist is a good reference to use when asking questions about each location you're visiting. It covers questions to ask about hours, holiday closures, places to eat, local lodging, restrictions, and even what records might be stored at a different location. I fill in what I already know and then call the main phone number to get answers to any other questions I might have. Be sure to include the address and phone number of each location on this page, also.

**What to take:** There are a number of essential items that you will want to have on hand.

- Small and large paper clips I fill empty
  prescription tubes with paper clips so they
  don't scatter or take up lots of space in my
  briefcase.
- **Pencils** Never take pens as they can damage valuable books. Sharpen all pencils before you go.
- **Post-its** I use the little strips to designate the pages I want to copy. You can cut a number of strips from the square post-its or buy strips. A word of caution; a librarian asked me once to not put the adhesive end in the book because it might stick to the pages and damage them. I either place it outside or tear that end off before I put it in the book.
- *Flash drive* This comes in handy for copying pages that you want to save to your computer later.
- **Roll of quarters** Most copies will now cost you twenty-five cents per page (there are not many for a dime anymore). This is why the post-its are useful. Write the page numbers on the post-it (page 30 or 30 to 40). I always make a copy of the front page with source information (title, copyright, publisher, etc.) and attach it as a first page so I don't have to take the time to write it all out. Some places don't let you make copies yourself, so you might have to give the books to the librarian to be copied. That could mean that you have to allow time for them to make the copies for you. They will then run a total for you to be paid at the end of the day.
- Spiral Notebook I have been to a few places that will only allow you to have a few pencils, an eraser and a spiral notebook or loose papers and notes with you. Everything

- else, including your purse and three-ring binder might have to be locked away. That means you have to remove everything in your three-ring binder and carry them in separately.
- ID Of course you should always have your driver's license with you but in some cases you might have to use your ID each time you enter and leave a location.

**Possible restricted items:** Some repositories restrict what you can take into the research rooms.

- *Computer* A few repositories do not allow personal computers on site (another good reason to have a flash drive with you), and you might be asked to put yours in a locker. When you call ahead, you always want to ask if bringing computer is permitted. I make use of my computer in the evening to download my flash drive or do more research before my next stop. I usually don't find it necessary to drag it along with me during the day.
- **Digital Camera** This might be a questionable item since you might be charged to use it. In Tennessee, I was told it would cost me \$10 per day to use mine or twenty-five cents per page to make copies. Of course, I made copies. Make sure when you take a photo that you place something under the book or document so it's not lying flat. Otherwise, you get a distorted image.
- *Hand-held Scanner* When they were first available they were permitted in most repositories. Now, they have discovered that they can tear the page at the top so most of the time I'm told they are not allowed. What I have found they are good for is copying things in clear page protectors. You can copy photos up to an 8" x 10" size, and the photo is protected from damage. This also works with special documents you might find in a library file.
- *Tablet* Your electronic tablet or notebook should be allowed but I'm not sure you really need to use them since computers are usually available for your use at the repository. That's just something extra to carry around, so keep things as simple as possible.

A few incidentals that I didn't mention would be your phone/electronic device chargers, extra batteries for your camera, an extra memory card, a tote or fanny pack to hold small odds and ends, a light jacket or sweater (some buildings are kept very cool to protect their contents), comfortable shoes, an umbrella and/or rain gear, completed ancestor charts or family group sheets, car or hand-held GPS, state and street maps, and driving directions to and from each stop. And last but not least, don't forget snacks, water, and any medications along with a copy of prescriptions in case you run out.

**Getting there** – If you are going to a location such as Washington, DC, that has a subway system, find out ahead of time what their transit schedule is and the closest stops to your research location. You'll want to stay in a hotel outside of the city to lower your cost. Parking is almost non-existent in Washington so when staying in Rockville, Maryland, last year, we found that our hotel had a shuttle that went to the Metro station every hour and made a pickup every fifteen minutes after the hour throughout the day. What we didn't know until the last day was that after 9:30 A.M., the rate to DC was lower (after rush hour). Parking in local garages could be expensive so do some research about what other public transportation is available to take you to and from your locations. Of course, those little towns and villages with old, historic buildings are a joy to travel to and even buses may not be available so you'll need your car there. Parking in that case is probably metered or free at the repository itself.

Some other things to keep in mind: A word of caution to the ladies: make sure when checking into you hotel that you're given a room that is located near the front desk or, if rooms are on exterior corridors near the parking lot, that it's well lit. Don't open the door of your room to anyone you didn't invite, even if they say they are from maintenance checking on a problem. The best thing to do in that case is to call the desk and ask if they sent someone.

I always try to allow extra time in my schedule, and, if possible, an extra day. The reason for that is that you never know when you might be delayed. On a trip in Maryland a number of years ago, I was driving on a major highway at sixty-five miles per hour when my car started shaking. It was also raining buckets, and I was all by myself. I had to locate a dealership, fast, and spent hours waiting around, unable to go anywhere, then getting a \$400+ bill for the

repair job. In addition to all of that, the place I had planned to do my research in was only open that day, so it was a doubly lost day for me. If all goes as planned for me, and I've still got the extra day I've allowed myself, I use it to do some sightseeing or visit some of the places I know my ancestor may have known. I'd love to find a threehundred-year-old family home that they actually owned or the store or government building they may have worked in on one of my free days. Maybe some day I'll have the chance to say I finally did. In the meantime, I'm starting to make my travel plans for this year and hope you are doing the same. Good luck in your research, and here's to everyone breaking down their brick wall and being able to do the "Happy Dance" soon.

~ Sharon

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# NHG NEWS (continued from page 81)

Friday evening, a choice of two tracks Saturday morning, and two lectures Saturday afternoon. We will use the same facility, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on Babcock Boulevard.

Registration for this year's conference is now open. Conference brochures will be available at our monthly meetings. You can also register on our website, <a href="https://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org">www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org</a>.

Social Hour Before June Meeting

NHG will hold a social hour before our June meeting. It will be at Northland in the room we use for our meeting. Join us any time from 6:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M. for snacks and networking!

#### NHG SIG Meetings

Listed below are the meeting dates and times for our special interest groups (SIGs). More information about each SIG is available on our website, <a href="www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org">www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org</a>. No matter how you participate in a SIG meeting—listening, sharing, or leading—you will reap the benefit of networking with fellow genealogical enthusiasts.

**Eastern Europea SIG** – Next meeting: 20 June 2016, 6:00 P.M., Shaler Library

**Pennsylvania SIG** – Next meeting: 25 May 2016, 6:00 P.M., Shaler Library

**British Isles SIG** – Next meeting: 1 June 2016, 11:00 A.M., St. Catherine of Sweden Church, Room 113

Writing SIG – Next meeting: 28 May 2016, 1:00 P.M., Shaler Library

**German SIG** – Next meeting: 21 May 2016, 9:00 A.M., Shaler Library, Yates Room.

# ETHNIC CORNER: SCANDINAVIAN AND NORDIC RESEARCH

Northern Europe has a strong cultural identity that most genealogists refer to as Scandinavian; however, the term Nordic is intertwined with Scandinavia, and this causes some confusion. Most commonly, Scandinavian countries are considered to be Norway, Sweden, and Denmark with Finland, Iceland, and the Faeroe Islands included as well.

The overlap occurs due to changing boundaries and the governance of some of the countries throughout modern history, much like in Eastern Europe or the United Kingdom. Up until the early twentieth century and the advent of World War I, Finland was governed by Sweden, and Iceland was governed by Denmark and Norway. Today, a century later, all five countries are independently governed, and the terms Scandinavian and Nordic are considered interchangeable, except perhaps by natives of those countries.

For the purpose of genealogical research, Scandinavia includes five countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, and the cultural heritages are called Norse, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic.

With that information in mind, what type of resources are available for conducting research in these countries that are rich in their unique as well as their integrated traditions?

A great place to start is to access <u>FamilySearch.org</u>, click on *Search*, and then on *Wiki*. That page, the *Family History Research Wiki*, which was recently updated, is searchable

by region or country. Go to www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Countries in Scandinavia for a starting point, and from there, click on the specific country or region of your ancestors. Norway and Sweden have full pages of links to database collections, while Denmark, Finland, and Iceland have a half page of links.

The BYU-TV website from Brigham Young University offers numerous educational videos about the basic resources available for exploring Scandinavian genealogy. You can go to <a href="https://www.byutv.org">www.byutv.org</a> and then enter the phrase "Basic Scandinavian Genealogy" in the search bar. Most videos are twenty-five minutes long.

Next, browse the links and information about "Scandinavia and the Nordic Countries" on *Cyndi's List* found at <a href="www.cyndislist.com">www.cyndislist.com</a>. Cyndi has divided the genealogical links into the categories of resources and countries. Strong starting points would be to click on the specific country of your ancestry or to use the "Birth, Marriage, Death" link or the "General Resources" link. Either way, *Cyndi's List* is updated often so the links to various indexed and imaged resources will be up-to-date and specific to your needs. Translation tools are also included for each language.

If using Ancestry.com for your Scandinavian genealogical research, find a list of specific collections for access by searching the *Card Catalog* for "Europe" first; then on the right side of that page, use the drop down menu under "Select another country" to explore the specific collections for any of the countries or regions of your heritage. Knowing surnames and place names are the most important pieces of information to uncover for your ancestors first. From there, you can look at the records of the specific country or region, which narrows your search parameters.

When using a general search engine to access Scandinavian resources on the Internet, it is best to search using the specific country. A search of *Denmark* yields more credible and updated websites than searching *Scandinavia*, for example. Besides the sites mentioned above, specific sites include universities, archives, and historical or genealogical societies from Norway,

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. These sites include a country's census records, family histories, emigration records, and history. Names of genealogical organizations and experts are often included. The birth, marriage, and death records are mostly organized by the specific location where your ancestors lived.

Scandinavian/Nordic genealogical research can be complex for the beginner; however, once you gather and verify some basics such as surname and location, it becomes much easier to locate records and to focus your search on your own ancestry. Remember that local Family History Centers have dedicated volunteers to assist you as you begin the exploration of your family's Northern European roots!

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### NGS ANNOUNCES NEW BOOKS

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) recently announced three new books. Two are additions to to NGS's *Research in the States* series: Florida and Texas. With the addition of these two books, the series covers twenty-four US states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The books in this series are available for purchase, in print or e-book format at <a href="https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/publications">www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/publications</a>.

Later this summer, NGS will publish *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. This book will have the latest information about using DNA in genealogy along with exercises for each chapter. Authors Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD, and Debbie Parker Wayne, cg, cgl, are two of the leading authorities on genetic genealogy.

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# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM NEWLY CREATED GENEALOGY PROFESSOR

At the NGS Conference in Florida earlier this month, a new educational program was launched by one of our fall conference speakers, Michael J. Leclerc, cg, with Kelvin Meyers, a professional and forensic genealogist. Genealogy Professor is the forum for this "high-quality independent education" for genealogists with any level of experience. Read the following press release for more details, and then follow up on

the website at <a href="www.genprof.net">www.genprof.net</a> for upcoming programs. There will also be a Gen Prof blog that you might wish to follow on the site.

As a special offer for NHG members, Genealogy Professor is offering our members 10 percent off any course from now until 15 July 2016. Use the discount code discount code NHPA01. Note that this is in addition to any other specials available.

Some of you may remember that Leclerc was one of the speakers at NHG's 2015 Fall Conference.

Press Release

4 May 2016

**Boston** – Welcome to a new adventure in genealogy education. Benjamin Franklin was dedicated to knowledge and lifelong learning, and so are we. Today we are launching a new educational experience for family historians. Genealogy Professor brings some of the most talented and experienced genealogists together to help you learn how to find and share the stories of your ancestors.

We are passionate about genealogy, and even more passionate about teaching others. We share our knowledge and experiences gained over decades of working at genealogical research. In addition to these veterans, you will also find some of the most talented up-and-coming professionals.

#### What's Different About Us

There are many options out there for genealogy education, running the gamut from free webinars to months-long courses with college credit. What is different about Genealogy Professor? We provide different options for learning, tailored for your needs.

Our Genealogy Masterclasses are high-touch experiential learning. They start with videos, reading, homework assignments, and tests. Then students participate in live online classrooms, where they can see and interact with professors and each other. Projects may be worked on individually or in small groups with other students. And each student gets one-on-one video sessions with their professor to talk about assignments and projects, providing overall feedback on the subject matter. Class sizes are small to promote a higher level of interaction that

doesn't occur in webinars or at conferences. Perhaps you have a hectic schedule that makes it difficult for you to participate in scheduled interactive courses. You may not know if you will be available for the entire length of a Masterclass. Check out our Self-Study courses. These sessions include video presentations where you can see your professor as well as a slideshow. Courses also may include video interviews with knowledgeable individuals who will teach you more about your subjects. There will also be reading, tasks to perform, and tests with feedback on where to improve. While students don't have the direct interaction with the professors, they do have the flexibility afforded by taking courses on their own schedule.

New professors and courses will be made available on a regular basis, so check back often to see what more you can learn about finding your family!

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

# Sunday, 22 May 2016 11:00 A.M. SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH

James Wudarczyk, author of *Until the Morning Cometh: Pittsburgh During the American Civil War*, will present "Pittsburgh: 1863–1865" at Saint Augustine Church. The church is at the corner of 37th and Bandera Streets in Lawrenceville. The lecture, which is hosted by the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Angels Parish, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

# Wednesday, 25 May 2016 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

NHG's Elissa Powell will be the speaker at this month's Cranberry meeting. She will present "Rubik's Cube Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Old Data." The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Franklin Station Room of the Cranberry Public Library. For more information, please visit <a href="www.cranberrygenealogy.org">www.cranberrygenealogy.org</a>.

Saturday, 11 June 2016 10:00 A.M.

# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

June's WPGS meeting will consist of the society's annual meeting and a book sale. It will be held at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. It is free and open to the public. Parking at the Carnegie Museum/Library garage is \$6 for the day. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.wpgs.org">www.wpgs.org</a>.

# Saturday, 11 June 2016 10:00 A.M. HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The Museum Conservation Center will hold "Family Archives Workshop, Part 1." Archivist Sierra Green will lead this workshop, which will feature hands-on activities. Green will discuss the best ways to preserve family materials. Preregistration is required. For more information and to register, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.

# Sunday, 12 June 2016 2:00 P.M. BALTZER MEYER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The June program will feature Bruce Shirey talking about "School Days." It will discuss a day in the life of a third grader in Hempfield Township. The event will be held at the BMHS Center at 642 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. More information is available at <a href="https://www.baltzermeyer.pa-roots.com/Pages/index">www.baltzermeyer.pa-roots.com/Pages/index</a> .html.

# 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 <a href="http://samford.libguides.com/ighr">http://samford.libguides.com/ighr</a> 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, Mastering 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 <a href="https://www.gripitt.org">www.gripitt.org</a> for more information.

### Monday, 27 June 2016 7:00 P.M. NHG SPECIAL LECTURE

NHG will sponsor a special bonus lecture during the first week of GRIP. Lisa Arnold will present "Quakers and Their Records" at LaRoche College. Follow the Family History signs on campus to find the lecture. For more information, please visit <a href="www.gripitt.org/?">www.gripitt.org/?</a> page id=149.

# Saturday, 9 July 2016 10:00 A.M. HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The Museum Conservation Center will hold "Family Archives Workshop, Part 2." Archivist Sierra Green will lead this workshop, which is a follow-up to a workshop held in June. Green will discuss how to organize and describe materials, how to create digital images of materials, and how to store larger items. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit <a href="https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org">www.heinzhistorycenter.org</a>.

# 12-14 July 2016 MIDWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY INSTITUTE

Choose from four tracks on African American research: Fundamental Methods and Strategies, DNA & Genealogy, Intermediate Genealogy—Pre & Post Slavery Era Research, and Genealogy Writing from Planning to Publication. The event will be held at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For more information, please visit www.maagiinstitute.org.

## 15–16 July 2016 MIDWESTERN ROOTS

Registration is now open for this year's conference. More than thirty sessions are scheduled for the conference, which will be held at the Marriott East in Indianapolis, Indiana. Topics will include technology, Indiana research, DNA, and more. More information is available at <a href="https://www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots">www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots</a>.

# 1-5 August 2016 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Registration is now open for HSP's week-long class Researching Family in Pennsylvania. The class will be held in HSP's facility at 1300 Locust Philadelphia. Topics will Pennsylvania vital records, court records, county tax records, researching at the Pennsylvania State Archives, and much more. Additional information, including class descriptions and a register, available is www.hsp.org/calendar/researching-family-inpennsylvania.

# Saturday, 27 August 2016 9:30 A.M. AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

John Philip Colletta, PhD, will present several lectures on the theme *Our Ancestors from Europe: How to Discover Their Individual Stories* in the library's Main Library Auditorium. The auditorium is in the library's facility at 60 South High Street, Akron, Ohio. The event is free and open to the public, although registration is required. For more information or to register, call e-mail <a href="mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org">speccollections@akronlibrary.org</a> or call 330-643-9030.

# 31 August-3 September 2016 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

The theme for this year's FGS conference is *Time Travel: Centuries of Memories*. The event will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois. Seventy-two speakers will present over 160 sessions during the conference. For more information and to register, please visit www.fgsconference.org.

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#### 2016-17 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**PRESIDENT – Rich Venezia** is a professional genealogist. A New Jersey native who now calls Pittsburgh home, he has roots in Italy, Ireland, England, Wales, Prussia, and Canada—and perhaps most important of all, Wilmerding! In his past life, he was a professional actor, a marketing officer for a theatre in Dublin, and a study abroad advisor in Massachusetts. He started Rich Roots Genealogy after having researched his own family for a decade, and credits his maternal grandmother for his passion for family history. He has been a member of the research team of *Genealogy Roadshow* (PBS) for two seasons and consulted on *Follow Your Past* (Travel Channel). He has been vice president of North Hills Genealogists since August 2015.

VICE PRESIDENT – Sue O'Connor grew up in the South Hills of Pittsburgh and relocated to Shaler Township forty years ago. She worked for Nationwide Insurance for thirty years as an account manager and ten years as director of operations for a Pittsburgh-based insurance broker. With her love of mystery books, and after being told many times that she would make a great detective, Sue felt like she was finally getting her dream job when she started to research her family six years ago! She has been a member of the NHG Conference Committee in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Sue loves taking research road trips and meeting new family members. Some of these new family members have been bitten by the genealogy bug and are now researching their other family lines. To those who continue to ask her, "Aren't you finished yet?" she tells them, "I'm having too much fun, and hope I'm never done."

**SECRETARY** — **Kim Paulson** has lived in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh her entire life. She grew up in Shaler Township and moved to McCandless eleven years ago. Kim attended LaRoche College during the evenings and received her bachelor's degree in business in 2000. She has worked for PNC Financial Services for thirty years where she is currently a Human Resources Project Manager. Kim joined the North Hills Genealogists in 2012 and enjoys broadening her knowledge of family history and genealogy through NHG members and resources. Kim's interest in genealogy started a few years ago with the show *Who Do You Think You Are?* Since then she has been tracing her ancestors in the Pittsburgh area and beyond. Kim enjoys traveling with her family and spending time outdoors gardening.

**TREASURER** —**Reed B. Powell** is the current and longtime NHG treasurer. He has worked in the computer industry since the early 1970s and now works for Merkle, an Internet marketing company in Green Tree, where he develops database applications. Reed is the web master for the North Hills Genealogists, and he also lectures locally and nationally on the use of technology in genealogical research.

#### BALLOT FOR THE 2016—2017 OFFICERS – NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

Ballot is due on or before 30 June 2016. Your ballot may be turned in at any NHG meeting, or mail your completed ballot to: *North Hills Genealogists*, *P.O. Box 169*, *Wexford*, *PA 15090*.

President	Vice President
Rich Venezia (write-in)	Sue O'Connor (write-in)
Secretary	Treasurer
Kim Paulson (write-in)	Reed B. Powell(write-in)



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Dated Material** 











### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG**

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

### Tuesday, 21 June 2016 Technology for Genealogy

Rebecca Kichta Miller, NHG Member

Miller will discuss various technology tools and how to apply them to genealogy. Topics that will be discussed are tablets and mobile devices, software, searching resources, meta data, blogs, wearables, voice to text, handwriting recognition, organizing, and sharing.

#### Tuesday, 19 July 2016 Can a Complex Research Problem be Solved Solely Online?

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, cg, cgl

Jones will present a program where, step by step, attendees will suggest online sources and research strategies for tracing an ancestor who seems to disappear and reappear, showing how such cases can be solved online and the limits of material online.

### <u>THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM</u> – Tuesday, 17 May 2016 The Ancestor Deep-Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything there Possibly Is to Know about Your Ancestor

Tammy Hepps

Learn a methodology for creating a research plan centered around the discoveries we want to make, not the pathways we think are available for getting there. We will cover how to brainstorm what we want to know and how to work backwards.