



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P O Box 169 * Wexford, PA, 15090 * www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

NHG NEWS

Social Hour before the November Meeting

We will have a social before this month's meeting. Starting at 6:00, there will be snacks and an opportunity to network with your fellow genealogists. We've done this several times before and are doing it again due to popular demand. **Note that the social will replace Tip Time this month.**

Holiday Social

NHG will hold its Holiday Social on Saturday, December 2. We will visit the Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives for a tour with librarian Mary Jones and archivist Sierra Green. The tour will begin at 10:30 A.M., but members should meet in the Heinz Center lobby at 10:15. After an optional group lunch, members are welcome to return to the Heinz History Center to conduct research or pay to tour the museum. Admission to the library is free. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the November meeting, or you can send an email to Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org. There is no deadline to sign up for the tour, however if you wish to join us for lunch, please let us know by November 22.

DNA SIG's First Meeting

NHG's DNA Special Interest Group (SIG) is moving forward. Ray Jones, PhD, will be the SIG coordinator. The SIG will hold its first meeting on Saturday, December 9th, at 2:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the social hall of Christ Episcopal Church North Hills, which is on Babcock Boulevard. If you are interested in the SIG and have not already signed up for it, send an email to DNASIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org or use the sign-up sheet that will be passed around during the November meeting.

NHG Donates Books to Northland

NHG will make its annual book donation to Northland Public Library at our November meeting. For the first time, we are donating both paper books and e-books.

The paper books we are donating this year are:

- *Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America 1625-1825* vols. 1-8 by David Dobson
- *Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide* by Joy Neighbors
- *Family Tree Historical Atlas of American Cities* by Allison Dolan
- *Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide* by Claire Santry
- *Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide* by Melanie Holtz
- *Finding a Place Called Home* by Dee Parmer Woodtor
- *Genealogists Handbook for Irish Research* by Marie E. Daly
- *George and Ruth Castle: Our Family's Journey 1613-2016* by Sharon Castle
- *German Names: A Practical Guide* by Kenneth L. Smith

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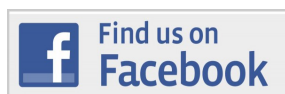
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WHO WE ARE—NHG

The North Hills Genealogists is a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet to learn, network, and assist one another in establishing our family histories. NHG meets on the third Tuesday of every month except December at 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 starts at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are free and open to the public. Membership runs from August to July for \$15.00 annually.

Benefits of NHG membership include monthly newsletters (not published July or December), field trips, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The SIGs are organized so that members can collaborate informally. Current groups are British Isles, DNA, Eastern Europe, German Roots, Pennsylvania, and Writing. Find current meeting information on our website.

The NHG Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Northland Public Library. All members are welcome. NHG is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

November is upon us, and that means it is a time for family, food, and fun. It is also a time for us to remember and honor our veterans as we celebrate Veteran's Day.

This November, I am thinking about both of my grandfathers who fought bravely in World War II. I knew them both, and I remember that they responded to their experiences very differently. My paternal grandfather almost never discussed his military experiences, while my maternal grandfather, especially in his golden years, regaled the stories with vigor and excitement. (Of course, I wasn't interested then; if only I could go back with a tape recorder and an open mind!)

I will be traveling this November to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis for research. Since many of us may have relatives or ancestors who fought in World War I, World War II, or the Korean War, I wanted to talk a bit about what records are held at the NPRC.

Pre-World War I-era military records are held in the National Archives in Washington, DC. For military records after that point, you will want to look to the NPRC. It is true there was a devastating fire in 1973, and many records were destroyed. However, all is not lost, and if you have any relative who served in the military during any of the wars over the past century, you will want to research in the records of the NPRC.

The Navy and Marine Corps records generally exist in full. It is mainly the Army and Air Force records that have been lost. When you come across a record that has been destroyed, there are often supplemental records that can be used to "rebuild" a service file of a soldier, mainly morning reports. It also is common to find correspondence from the veteran or his family within the file, and sometimes duplicate copies of records that had been lost were returned and placed with the soldier's file.

If you want to dig into records of the soldiers in your family tree, you don't have to go all the way to St. Louis (although there's nothing quite like holding the records in your hand). You can also order the records, known as Official Military Personnel Files—or OMPFs—directly from the

NPRC. Note that records of soldiers discharged in 1955 or later can only be requested by next-of-kin.

As you can imagine, there are also a host of other records available at the NPRC, although the OMPFs are the main ones. Civilian records, such as the records of employees of the Works Progress Administration or the Civilian Conservation Corps, are housed there, as are other assorted military records—including draft registrations for World War II that aren't available online, Selective Service records, and classification histories of soldiers (SSS Form 102, which can hold a wealth of genealogical information).

I hope as you honor the veterans in your family this month, this information may be of assistance to you in preserving their memories and their legacies.

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving!

~ Rich

NHG NEWS (continued from page 31)

- *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts* by Josephine Harper
- *Lands of the German Empire and Before* by Wendy K. Uncapher
- *Map Guide to Luxembourg Parish Registers* by Kevan M. Hansen
- *Scandinavian Research Guide* by Holly T. Hansen, Ruth E. Maness, Arlene H. Eakle, and James L. Tanner
- *Tracing Your Glasgow Ancestors* by Ian Maxwell
- *Tracing Your Ancestors' Parish Records* by Stuart A. Raymond
- *Tracing Your Northern Irish Ancestors* by Ian Maxwell

The e-books will be listed in the January newsletter.

Annual Conference

Registration is open for NHG's annual conference, which will be held Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, at the Columbian

Room in Wexford. We are delighted to have John Philip Colletta, PhD, and Aaron McWilliams as the featured speakers. Colletta specializes in federal records held at the National Archives. McWilliams is an archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Friday's lectures will focus on records at archives—both the national and state levels. Saturday's lectures will focus on immigration, naturalization, how to put your ancestors into historical context, and maps and gazetteers. Registration forms are available at all NHG meetings. If you prefer to pay with a credit card, please visit www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=71.

December Newsletter

Remember that NHG does not publish a newsletter in December. The next issue will be published in January 2018.

NECROLOGY

Member Marsha Kline passed away 24 September 2017. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, children, granddaughter, siblings, and cousins.

PHILADELPHIA CITY ARCHIVES CLOSING FOR MOST OF 2018

The City Archives is closing on December 15th in preparation for a move to a new location. The archives has many records useful to genealogists, including birth, marriage, and death records for Philadelphia starting in 1860; naturalization records; Philadelphia County deeds; and more. While they are closed, they will not fulfill document copy requests for historical and academic research. If you need a document from the archives, order it soon!

They expect to open at their new location on 1 September 2018. For more information, please visit the site www.phila.gov/records/Archives/Archives.html.

BORROWING BOOKS FROM THE INTERNET ARCHIVE

Within the collections of the *Internet Archive* (www.archive.gov) there are over 635,000 books

that can be borrowed for reading or research. Although the books are not compatible with some book services, **all** of the online books can be opened and read within your Internet browser or through free software, *Adobe Digital Editions*.

The available electronic books cover a cross-section of topics including history, local history, genealogy, and ethnic groups from around the globe. To check out a book from those available in the *Internet Archive*, patrons must register for a "Virtual Library Card" by providing an email address and choosing a screen name and password. This is a free account, and there is an option to receive emails and updates from the *Internet Archive* or not.

An out-of-print book about your family or ancestral hometowns might be hidden within the collection of the *Internet Archive*. Best of all, you can borrow the book easily and read it from the comfort of your home or office!

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL REPOSITORIES: ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By Amy Arner, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

As of August 2017, the University of Pittsburgh's Special Collections Department and the Archives Service Center have merged, with the new department being called Archives & Special Collections (A&SC). The new department has two locations: A&SC at the Archives Service Center (7500 Thomas Boulevard, Pittsburgh, 15208) and A&SC at Hillman Library (Third Floor – Room 363, 3960 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15260). Both locations are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. unless it's a Pitt holiday. Their website is www.library.pitt.edu/archives-special-collections.

So why should a researcher visit A&SC? They have a variety of records useful for genealogical research. Their collection strengths include Allegheny County government records, business and industry, ethnic groups in Pittsburgh, maps, Pitt's archives, and religious records. A guide for researching in their collections is available at

www.library.pitt.edu/asc-doing-research. They also have a genealogy guide at <http://pitt.libguides.com/Genealogy>.

I have two favorite records types to use at A&SC. The first is the church records. A&SC has church records from seventeen denominations available on microfilm. There is a complete list at <http://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12551&p=66410>. Some of the records have been digitized. To see if the records from a particular church have been digitized, click on the name of the church on the page listed above, and scroll down to the Collection Inventory section of the page. Any digitized records will have the word "Online" beside the short description. Many of the church records in the A&SC collection are not available anywhere else.

The second are the maps and atlases. This collection is not limited to Western Pennsylvania. It is described at <http://pitt.libguides.com/ascmapsatlases>. Some of the collection has been digitized on Historic Pittsburgh (www.historicpittsburgh.org/pittsburgh-maps) and the Darlington Digital Library (<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/collection/darlington-digital-library>). I use these to understand what the land around where my ancestors lived looked like, to find churches and cemeteries near where my ancestors lived, and to see how they may have traveled from place to place.

A&SC has finding aids to help researchers use their collections. A how-to guide for searching finding aids is available at <http://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12282&p=65370>. If you are not familiar with how to use a finding aid, there is a description at <http://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12282&p=65372>.

Note that A&SC is an archive, not a library, so the rules to visit and use the collections are a bit different than what you may have experience before. To start with, all visitors must complete a registration form before using any materials. The form asks for basic information, including your name, address, phone number, email address, and your research topic. There's also a place to sign that indicates that you have read A&SC's policies and procedures. Researchers cannot take bags, notebooks, and purses into the reading

room. A&SC has lockers right outside the reading room where visitors can store their possessions. Researchers are not allowed to use pens in the reading room. The staff has pencils researchers can borrow. Another difference is that A&SC is a closed-stack facility. This means that any material a researcher wants to use must be requested from the staff. Don't be intimidated by these restrictions! There are treasures in the A&SC collections that might help you break through one of your brick walls!

CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE IN NOVEMBER

Since 1990, November has been designated as “Native American Heritage Month” throughout the United States. What a perfect time to celebrate the influence of the “First Americans” and their contributions to the history of our nation! Uncovering stories about ancestors’ lives should include contributions, traditions, and other ideas of cultural significance.

Today, about 100 years since the first Native American Day was proclaimed, the National Archives and Records Administration, Library of Congress, and National Park Service have collaborated with the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Endowment for the Humanities to honor the contributions, traditions, and heritage of Native Americans through programs, exhibits, and cultural preservation.

The *Native American Heritage Month* website can be found at www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov. This is a good place to begin to learn about Native American heritage. Highlighted content on the site includes links for “Exhibits and Collections”, “Audio and Video”, and “Images”. There are resource guides under each main page, which are written clearly and describe the contents of each collection, where the collection is housed, and ways to access the content.

For those with Native American ancestors, consider preserving the stories by writing about the facts of each life, and supplement the story with accurate historical material. According to the National Congress of American Indians

(NCAI), preserving the rich cultural traditions and stories of Native Americans can be used to bring awareness “about unique challenges Native people have faced historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.”

There are numerous websites to access for Native American ancestral research. The US Census Bureau page outlines Censuses of American Indians and where to locate those records: www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/censuses_of_american_indians.html. One note of interest is that the US Census Bureau conducted a thorough census of all Native Americans in 1950. When the 1950 census is released to the public in five years in 2022, there will be detailed information listed.

Another website with comprehensive information is found on the “Native American Heritage Month” page of *InfoPlease*, www.infoplease.com/american-indian-heritage-month. Links from that page include: “History and Biography”, “Contemporary Issues and Culture”, “Tribes and Reservations” and a collection of historic and current news articles. This content offers an avenue for learning more about Native American history, myths, literature, art, and music.

Joe Beine, an author from Colorado and avid genealogist, has created the Online Native America Indian Genealogy Records & Databases web page, found at www.genealogybranches.com/nativeamericans.html. It is unique in that some of the links are organized by both tribe and state.

SCROLL THROUGH COLONIAL LIFE

Press Release

12 October 2017

In a few weeks, the [Harvard Library](http://harvard.edu) will release a new website for its ongoing, multi-year digitization “[Colonial North American Project at Harvard University](http://colonialnorthamericanproject.harvard.edu).” Approximately 450,000 digitized pages of all the known archival and manuscript materials in the Library relating to 17th- and 18th-century North America will be available to the public.

Launched in November 2015 with 150,000 images, the online collection documents life in the European colonies of the Americas and Caribbean, as well as in Great Britain, continental Europe, and Africa. These extraordinary materials enable viewers to see through the eyes of the influencers and common folk of the era, providing insights not only about revolution and politics but also economics, science, society, and much more.

[Editors' Note: The URL for the project is <http://library.harvard.edu/colonial>.]

HISTORIC MAPS REVEAL FAMILY HOMESTEAD

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

Recently I was re-doing some searches on Ancestry.com and using FamilySearch.org as a cross-reference. Little did I know that I would soon uncover records that led to the discovery of an online, 1880 map with a family homestead clearly marked.

Working on my maternal grandfather's line can be challenging because of the common Welsh surname Jones. Add common given names to the mix—Thomas, Benjamin, John, and James—and it is vital to verify that each record matches that exact family. Noticing an update to the 1871 Wales Census, I first went into my saved records and reviewed the Jones family, starting with the 1940 United States Federal Census and working backwards in time. In this way, I was able to have the names, dates, locations, and relationships fresh in my mind.

My grandfather, Thomas W. Jones, b. 1889 in Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, was a son of Benjamin H. Jones, b. 1862 in Summit Hill, Luzerne County. In the collection *Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1964*, Ben's birth date matched my notes, and my grandfather (the informant) had listed the parents: James N. Jones, and Grace Jones. (Still to be determined: what is Grace's maiden name?) All of this information is confirmed in the 1880 US census, which also lists that James N. and Grace Jones were both born in Wales, as were all of their parents.

Next, I checked the 1870 census and all information continued to match, except now, the oldest child, Margarete, who was 15 years old, was born in Wales, and the second child, 13-year old Elizabeth was born in Pennsylvania. That narrowed down the immigration year to the range of 1855–1857. In addition, James N. Jones had no variations in his age on multiple records and always used his middle initial. So I decided to see who in the family was still in Wales around this time. I went to the 1881 Wales Census, but found too many Joneses. I tried the 1871 Wales Census, and found three Jones families in the area of Breconshire that family stories revealed as their hometown. Going back to 1861, I found a Jones family which had the exact same sequence of children's names as James N. and Grace used for their offspring. In this case, the Jones family listed in Wales was a generation older; the head of household was John with a wife named Gwen. The census record indicated that there might be older children, based upon the 1861 and 1871 ages of the family members and changes in who was living in the household.

In the end and several hours later, I was able to confirm through US and Wales census records and the records of *England and Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567–1970*, that John Jones, head of the household in the 1871 Wales census, was the brother of James N. Jones, my great-great grandfather living in Luzerne County. The *Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Register* had a note that “the local church in Llandilo-'r-Fan, a parish, with a village, in Brecknockshire, on the river Ciliene, had burnt and not re-built.” Not many of this Jones family's records were outside of the Methodist Church, but thankfully, the record group of registers had been digitized and indexed online!

In the Wales census years of 1861, 1871, and 1881 was listed the name of the land/farm on which our Jones family resided, farmed, and owned. It was written in all three census years as “Crofftee in part of Llandilofane, Brecon.” In 1871 there was additional information listed about the location of Crofftee. The record revealed John Jones (two years younger brother to James N. Jones on my line), age 42, married to Gwen, 41, with five children bearing the same sequence of names as James's family in Pennsylvania, living on a “farm of 118 acres and 2 rocky acres in the

upper northeast division of the parish of Llandilofane, Brecon.”

I went to the United Kingdom’s genealogy archives, clicked on Llandilofane, and found information at www.ukga.org/wales/Breconshire/towns/Llandilofane.html. I looked again over the various census records. Then, by scrolling down the page, I noticed a link for historic maps of Wales with an 1880 map as the closest to the 1871 Wales Census.

I looked over that map and moved it around to finally find the Welsh town of Llandilo-r-Fan, which is in fact Llandilofane. Next I zoomed in using the map tools to the northeast part of the parish. Luckily there were clear boundaries indicated on the map. Finally, I spotted the Jones homestead, spelled on the map as Crofty/Croffte! Not only were the property boundaries drawn onto the map, but also the terrain was indicated by the various marks (it looked to be hand-drawn). Each building was also drawn onto the map, and a key indicated the type of building.

Using cross referencing, family groups, naming patterns, maps, reputable government records and archival sites, I was able to expand the Jones branch of our family tree by finding my great-great-grandfather and his brother, using US and Wales census records to match the families, and examined a historic map to piece together names of places and property. In the end, the next time one of us descendants travels to Wales, we have a specific property to visit! With a quick check on Google Maps, I determined that the buildings of Crofty are still standing today.

MAKE TIME TO EXPLORE ANCESTRAL TOWNS

By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

During my summer vacation with the Hummel-Buresh family in Tuscany, Italy, near Gambassi Terme, my friend’s son-in-law Steve casually mentioned the following during dinner one evening: “My grandfather and his family were from a small town near here.”

I immediately went into genealogy-mode! “Are you going to visit that town?” I asked and followed up by adding, “We have to find a way to get there and visit that town. How far away is it?” My wide-eyed grin looked at nine other faces registering various degrees of reaction.

We DID go to that small, quaint town, three days later, to visit Castelnuova di Val di Cecina, Italy, the ancestral town of Steve’s great-grandparents, Enrico Panicucci and Maria Pierattini. It was so much more than our imagined parallel to an episode of a genealogy television show.

After dinner on the night of Steve’s casual comment, two of us eagerly accessed our accounts with Ancestry.com and started to search for Steve’s roots. As with many beginners, the more records that we found to explore, the more Steve remembered facts and stories about his grandfather and great-grandparents from family lore. Soon, Steve was engrossed enough in our searching to contact his father’s brother, Rich, back in the United States, by sending an email and then messaging him through Facebook. We waited for a response—after all, his uncle was the family’s genealogist.

The next day, our group spent an incredible day exploring the city of Florence and basking in the grandeur of its art, music, history, and architecture. We also met up for part of the day with professional genealogist Rich Venezia (NHG’s president). This had been pre-arranged, but when Rich first joined us, I enthusiastically explained to him about Steve’s ancestral town. Rich agreed that we HAD to get there, and he and Steve discussed family as they became acquainted. By the time we took the train back to where we were staying, Rich had verified Steve’s facts and emailed us more documents, one of which listed the exact address of the home of Enrico Panicucci and Maria Pierattini. In addition, reaching out to Steve’s uncle had led to Steve connecting via Facebook with a cousin, Daniele, who was living and working in Castelnuova. Pieces were falling into place!

We re-arranged two days of our plans, and with documents, names, dates, and addresses on our smart phones, we traveled west through the gorgeous Tuscan landscape and up a winding hill to arrive in Castelnuova di Val di Cecina, Italy, in

the late morning. We used GPS mapping to insert the exact location of Enrico and Maria's home; then, after exploring the only church in town, we started to walk down through the town's maze of streets, which were actually cobbled walkways, definitely for one-way traffic. The blue dot on the phone's mapping system got closer, as we walked for almost twenty-five minutes throughout Castelnuova.

When we arrived at Steve's ancestral home, we were all very reverent. We took photos, totally undisturbed, and we quietly allowed Steve to absorb the moment.

After climbing back to the top, including traveling through "The Narrow Alley" which was 25 feet high and 18 inches wide, our group was back in the gardens and parking lot of the church. Then Steve's phone rang. It was his cousin Daniele calling through Facebook! That is when the bigger challenges began.

First, there was a definite language barrier, but key words were exchanged. Steve suggested we would meet Daniele at his work, because we had noticed the offices as we entered town. But the voices (at least two people) on the phone yelled, "No, no, no no!" So Steve just repeated "chiesa" (church). With a squeal of brakes, a red van with the family name prominently on the side, screeched into the parking lot. I was the first to shout, "It's Steve's cousin!"

The meeting between second cousins, once removed, Steve and Daniele, was joyous. There was a worker who emerged from the van to observe; suddenly he spoke and said, "Luca. Cousin!" It was Daniele's younger brother. The three men continued to try to communicate. Others helped with Google Translate and asking Siri for Italian phrases. Then I realized I could call Rich in Florence. Luckily Rich was able to translate back and forth for about fifteen minutes so that the cousins had a great conversation! Daniele was very knowledgeable about the family history and filled in information for Steve. The rest of us were spectators on the stage with the "actors", totally engrossed in the story.

We ended up at the town hall; Bette was the most efficient clerk, the keeper of the records in

Castelnuova. We again encountered a bit of a language barrier; I called Rich Venezia again to translate for all of us. Then while Bette was collecting original records for Steve and his family, I verified with Rich what would be appropriate protocol with town hall. Daniele and Luca returned to work; in fact, Luca was getting married in a few days! We took a last look around the town, and then headed back through Tuscany.

From a random comment to changing the plans for our trip on the fly, we used online databases, social media, email correspondence, GPS mapping, and review of various records to visit and explore an ancestral town and to meet cousins. Rich Venezia's translation skills and in-depth understanding of Italian records ensured that Steve and his cousins had an incredible meeting. A keeper of the records in Castelnuova, Bette, took time to welcome Steve and his group to the town, and efficiently and enthusiastically located and copied birth, marriage, and land records for Steve and his family (at no charge).

On the last night of our vacation, someone inquired about each traveler's favorite time during the trip. Everyone mentioned two things, and for all, one of the two was "visiting Steve's ancestral town". Remember this: flexible plans, an unexpected side trip, and online records and social media can lead to an unforgettable visit to ancestral towns, and maybe even a chance to meet a cousin or two!

1921 CANADIAN CENSUS NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE

Canada takes a census every ten years, just like the United States does. The most recent Canadian census available to the public is the one from 1921. The Library and Archives Canada recently announced that the digitized records from this census are available for free on their website. This includes a searchable database of names with the associated original images attached. There is also a street index. Information about this census and a link to search it are online at www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1921/Pages/introduction.aspx. Note that not all of the records have survived. The page listed above has a link to information about what is and is not available.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Monday, 27 November 2017 6:30 P.M. ZELIENOPLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NHG Newsletter Co-Editor Susan Ennis will lead a workshop in learning tips and tricks to grow your family tree using Ancestry.com Library Edition and other databases. Please bring a laptop or tablet if you have one available. It is free and open to all levels of genealogy enthusiasts. Use the time to brainstorm solutions to brick walls and to move ahead with your genealogical research!

Sunday, 3 December 2017 12:00 P.M. CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING

The University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning will hold its annual Nationality Rooms Open House from noon to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Costumed guides will be available in each room. Please visit www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu for more information, including the thirty nationalities and ethnic groups represented.

9–10 December 2017 INTERNATIONAL GENETIC GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

This conference focuses on using DNA for genealogical research. It will be held at the Sheraton Mission Valley San Diego Hotel in San Diego, California. The schedule includes an opening keynote, a closing keynote, and two lecture tracks. More information, including a form to register, is available at www.i4gg.org.

21–26 January 2018 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY

Registration is open for SLIG 2018. SLIG is offering fourteen courses—several have waiting lists, but the rest still have seats available. The courses are mostly for intermediate to advanced researchers, but several are appropriate for beginners. The institute will be held at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. Note that the Hilton is only a few blocks from the Family History Library, so attendees can research there after class is over

for the day. For a list of courses and hotel and registration information, please visit www.ugagenealogy.org/aem.php?eid=24.

29–31 January 2018 CHINESE AMERICAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

This how-to workshop will be held at the California Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Participants do not have to know Chinese. For more information, please contact Henry Tom at Henry.Tom@Cox.net.

Wednesday, 28 February 2018 6:30 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

NHG member Debbie Billeter will present “Using DNA to Solve Genealogical Brick Walls.” This program is a case study about finding appropriate candidates to solve a genealogical problem. The program will be held in the Cranberry Public Library's Franklin Station meeting room. Please visit www.cranberrygenealogy.org for more information.

28 February–3 March 2018 ROOTSTECH

Registration is open for RootsTech. More than 200 sessions will cover DNA, tools, organization, methodology, and more. The conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Additional information and a link to register are available at www.rootstech.org.

23–24 March 2018 NHG ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our next conference will feature John Philip Colletta, PhD, and Aaron McWilliams as the speakers. Friday's sessions will focus on using archives. Saturday's sessions will cover immigration, naturalization, telling the stories of your ancestors, and maps and gazetteers. The event will be held at the Columbian Room in Wexford. The early bird registration deadline is February 20th. For more information, visit www.northhillsgenealogists.org, or pick up a brochure at a meeting.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

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UPCOMING NHG PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 21 November 2017
Annual Round Table

If you missed last year's, you missed a great exchange of information and ideas! Our annual Round Table has proven to be a successful meeting of information, guidance, and cousin-finding for those in attendance. Join us for an evening of sharing questions, answers, and helpful hints among all attendees. You can pose your own questions or just sit back and listen. Remember, no question is too basic or obscure. We look forward to seeing you at this terrific information exchange!

Saturday, 2 December 2017
NHG Holiday Social

We will visit the Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives for a tour with librarian Mary Jones and archivist Sierra Green. The tour starts at 10:30 A.M. Meet in the Heinz Center lobby at 10:15 A.M. After the tour we will go to a local restaurant for lunch, Dutch treat.

Tuesday, 18 January 2018
Understanding DNA Ethnicity Estimates

Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD

Learn how testing companies create ethnicity estimates, the accuracy of the estimates, and ways to use them in your research. Together we will compare and contrast ethnicity estimates at the big five testing companies (23andMe, AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, LivingDNA, and MyHeritage) and discuss their limitations and uses. This will be a live webinar presented at Northland Library only. In 2007 Bettinger started *The Genetic Genealogist* blog, one of the most respected and easiest to understand of the blogs about DNA. He is the author of two books, *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* and *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* with Debbie Parker Wayne. He is the course coordinator for "Practical Genetic Genealogy" at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) each July and teaches in the Advanced Genetic Genealogy and the Chromosome Mapping courses.