



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P O Box 169 \* Wexford, PA, 15090 \* [www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

## LEARNING TO OVERCOME BRICK WALLS IN RESEARCH: THE IMPORTANCE OF GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION

*By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor*

Genealogical education is easily accessible today, sometimes free, and vital for keeping up-to-date about methods and resources that support genealogical research. The North Hills Genealogists Board has been brainstorming ways to enhance member benefits, and part of our emphasis has been upon providing education. As NHG begins its new membership year this month, we offer two new and free programming options!

The proverbial genealogical brick wall is frustrating and consumes time during research sessions; however, if we only utilize the same search terms and resources when we research, then how can we actually break down that brick wall? Taking advantage of opportunities to learn new ideas locally and from home this year can help to overcome research plateaus.

The first option involves accessing the website at [www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org). With the purchase of a timely video series about DNA and genealogy, all NHG members can learn at their own pace by watching the videos, using the accompanying handouts, and taking notes to apply to research. (Refer to detailed article in this newsletter.) I like that I can “rewind” the video to play back sections that I need to review for optimum understanding. It is convenient to login to the NHG site and access this programming. Look for the possibility of additional online videos to be added after we collect feedback from the first two videos.

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## NHG NEWS

### *New Officers*

NHG is pleased to announce the results of our recent election. Our new officers will be Dave Williams, president; Faith Jack, vice president; Reed Powell, treasurer; and Kim Paulson, secretary. Thank you to those who voted!

Many thanks to Rich Venezia and Sue O'Connor for their work as officers during the past two years.

### *Growing Pains*

NHG is becoming a victim of its own success. As those of you who have attended recent meetings have probably noticed, NHG is filling Northland's meeting room regularly. The library board has expressed some concerns about this because we have exceeded the maximum number of people allowed in the room several times, according to the fire code. We are working with the library staff to figure out a solution for the overcrowding. We may need to experiment with a few options

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*Note: The newsletter is an NHG member benefit. As such, the newsletter and its contents may not be copied, forwarded, or extracted without written permission from the editors.*

## NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2018–2019

<b>President:</b>	Dave Williams
<b>Vice President:</b>	Faith Jack
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Reed B. Powell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kim Paulson
<b>Past President:</b>	Rich Venezia
<b>Membership:</b>	Ken Berner
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<b>Program Chairs:</b>	Lauren Mallory Susan O'Connor
<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Amy E. K. Arner Sue Ennis
<b>Corresponding Sec'y:</b>	Al Hartman
<b>Social Media Chair:</b>	Carole Ashbridge
<b>Conference Chairs:</b>	Amy E. K. Arner Sharon Thornber

### For more information:

[Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

### Newsletter ideas and feedback:

[Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

## 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 for two people at the same address.

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, Pennsylvania, and Writing. Meeting information is on our website.

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



## NHG MEMBER BENEFITS

As described in this issue, the newest benefit for members of the North Hills Genealogists is free, online training with the DNA Boot Camp videos. Along with those are audio files from WDVE promoting NHG and its programming from the past years and the complete set of video clips from KDKA's *Pittsburgh Today Live* appearances to highlight genealogy.

Throughout this year, a unique member benefit will be highlighted in each issue of the NHG newsletter, which in and of itself, is also a member benefit.

## BRICKWALLS

(continued from page 1)

The second option is also a new program. Four times over the next year—in September, November, April, and June—NHG members who are beginner and novice genealogists can gather to meet at Northland Library with experienced genealogists from NHG. Although there will be some continuity among the four workshops, each one is individually planned. You may choose to attend one, two, three, or all four of the *Genealogy Research for Beginners* workshops. The format is designed to allow a lot of time for hands-on research while volunteers are there to support your efforts. Each month, a different NHG leader will present a mini-lesson about how to conduct genealogical research, focusing upon one record group at a time. Then, after the mini-lesson and demonstration, the leader and four or five other NHG volunteers will assist and support the attendees to provide insight and feedback for individual research success. The first session is Saturday, 8 September at Northland from 10:00 A.M. to noon. Space is limited for these workshops, so registration is required. To register, send an email with your name and contact information to [Education@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Education@NorthHillsGenealogists.org) or see Sue Ennis at a meeting. Note that the workshops will be limited to NHG members.

Attending NHG's monthly meetings allows for networking with other genealogists; many members arrive early and use the time to discuss genealogy research and findings with fellow

members. Something as simple as sitting in a different part of the meeting room is a chance to meet someone new. The NHG Special Interest Groups (SIGs) offer members another option for informal learning through discussion topics, demonstrations, and collaboration. For when and where the SIGs meet, refer to this link of the NHG website [www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=43](http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=43) and then on the left menu, click on each of the SIG pages for specific information.

Plans are under way for the 2019 NHG Conference to be held 22–23 March 2019 in the Columbian Room, Wexford. The annual conference has been a popular, local genealogy event since it began. Next year has a DNA theme and two outstanding, knowledgeable speakers in Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD and Ray Jones, PhD! Follow this link to all of the 2019 conference details: [www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=77](http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=77). Registration for the 2019 NHG Spring Conference is open now. There are several options for creating your own conference experience including Friday only attendance, Saturday only attendance, or the entire conference attendance. What I think is very beneficial at our conference is that immediately after learning about a specific topic, there is a break, during which you can digest the content through discussion with other participants.

Teaching yourself about genealogy and learning from others are great avenues for progressing in your family history.

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## **NHG NEWS** **(continued from page 1)**

during this process, so we appreciate your patience.

### *Bylaws and Policies and Procedures*

The board has significantly revised our bylaws and our policies and procedures. The revised documents were sent to all members via email on May 10th and May 24th. During the August meeting, we will vote on whether to approve the changes. If you have any questions about the changes, please talk to Rich Venezia or Susan O'Connor during a meeting or send an email to [Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org).

### *New Genealogy Database Access at Northland*

NHG has sponsored access to *American Ancestors*, the subscription service available from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, for Northland Public Library. Anyone using one of the library's computers or connecting their own device to the library's wi-fi network can access the service free of charge. The service includes 455 databases with 1.4 billion searchable records.

### *German SIG*

NHG is looking for a new facilitator for our German SIG. The responsibilities include reserving space for meetings, sending email reminders, and helping the group decide upon programs and topics. If you are interested in the position, send an email to [GermanSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:GermanSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org) or see Sue O'Connor at a meeting.

### *NHG on Meetup*

In addition to our website, NHG announces our meetings and events on Meetup. This website allows people to sign up for reminders about NHG events. If you want to use the website, you need to create a free account. You can find NHG's events at [www.meetup.com/North-Hills-Genealogists](http://www.meetup.com/North-Hills-Genealogists).

### *Save the Dates*

NHG has scheduled another Library Lock-in at Northland Public Library. It will be held Friday, November 16th from 6:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Registration for this event will open Monday, October 15th at 8:00 A.M.

For this year's Holiday Social, we will tour the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. Our social is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st. Additional details will be announced later.

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## **QUERY**

Searching for information about ancestors who lived in **McCandless** and **Pine Townships**. Surnames are **Richard**, **Schwinderman**, and **Michel**.

One great-grandfather was Joseph **Richard**. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine on 29 Sep. 1837 and emigrated to the United States in 1865. He died on 9 Jan. 1910 and is buried in Saint Alphonsus Cemetery in Wexford. His wife was Pauline **Schwinderman**. She was born in McCandless Township on 18 Mar. 1844. She died on 18 Oct. 1888 and is also buried in Saint Alphonsus Cemetery. Joseph's mother appears in the 1880 US federal census, but I cannot find where she was buried. Pauline's father was Philip **Schwinderman** who may have owned property bordering the Venango Trail. Richard Road and Swinderman Road in Wexford were named after the these families.

Another great-grandfather was Stephen **Michel**. He was born in Bavaria on 12 Dec. 1846 and emigrated to the United States several years later. He died on 31 March 1908 and is buried at Saint Alphonsus. He was married to Theresa **Heinzer**. The **Heinzer** family had settled in Summit County. The **Michel** family had a farm on Route 19 near the Thoma Funeral Home.

If you have any information to share or resource suggestions, contact **Paul Richard, Tulsa, OK** at [Npaul818@netscape.net](mailto:Npaul818@netscape.net).

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## DNA BOOTCAMP TRAINING

*By Reed Powell, NHG Webmaster*

North Hills Genealogists is pleased to announce the availability of high quality Genetic Genealogy training for its members. This suite of online video courses is free to everyone with a current NHG membership, and has no limitations on how often the videos may be viewed. Each course has a set of downloadable supplemental materials to help you in the learning process. No special software is needed to watch the videos.

The initial set of DNA Boot Camp courses is "Getting Started with DNA and Genealogy" which is made up of two video training sessions. The Boot Camp series is taught by Mary Eberle with moderation by Thomas MacEntee.

The first video session is "Introduction to Using DNA for Genealogy Research". Do you want to

start using DNA for genealogy research but need guidance on the best approach? Maybe you received your DNA results and want a better understanding of them? This talk covers DNA basics, available tests, where to test, and how to develop your DNA testing plan.

The second video is "Using Autosomal DNA for Genealogy Research". Autosomal DNA (atDNA) provides the most useful information for most genealogists. Learn how to analyze your atDNA test results and how to find common ancestors with your DNA matches.

To participate in the DNA Boot Camp training, you need to first login to the "Members Only" area of the NHG website at [www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org) by clicking on the "Members Only / LOGIN" option along the left side. All members should have received an email at some point with their login information (user name and password). If you have misplaced this information, you can follow the directions on the login page for retrieving it and resetting your password. If you continue to have difficulties getting logged in, please send an email to [Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org), and we will get the problem fixed.

Once you are logged into the NHG website, you will see additional menu options along the left side. Many of the special NHG members-only benefits will be listed under the "Members Only / LOGIN" option. The DNA Boot Camp has its own menu option near the top of the list. Clicking on "DNA Boot Camp" will take you to a screen where you can select the video to watch. There is also a menu option on the left for downloading the course materials.

Please note that there is a link to a short survey for each of the video training sessions; filling that out will help us tremendously in planning future expansion of DNA Boot Camp courses, and adding similar training offerings for North Hills Genealogists members.

We hope that you find this training valuable in expanding your genetic genealogy knowledge and in taking your genealogy research to new levels, and we look forward to hearing your feedback about this exciting new feature.

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## GRO EXTENDS PROGRAM FOR OBTAINING PDF COPIES OF BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS

It was previously reported that the General Register Office (GRO) for birth and death certificates from England and Wales had initiated a pilot program for individuals to obtain a PDF file, non-certified copy of a birth or death record. This program has been extended.

Refer to the following web page and its menu for specific details: [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp).

Historically, the GRO has held a copy of vital record registrations for England and Wales. All applications for a PDF copy of a birth or death may be requested online at the GRO web page for *Births from 1837-1917* and for *Deaths from 1837-1957*. There is a modest fee for each record request; to pay for a PDF copy, first register through the site with your name and an e-mail address. Then proceed through the screens as directed to checkout and pay with a credit or debit card. You must include a GRO index reference; access to the online indexes is accessible through a link on the *Ordering Page* at [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp).

The GRO site reminds researchers that “A PDF is not a certificate and has no “evidential” value, therefore a paper certified copy [certificate] is required for official purposes.” However, a PDF copy is an efficient way for genealogists to obtain quick copies of ancestral records.

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## RECORDS SPOTLIGHT: CENSUSES

*By Sue Ennis, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor*

New genealogical researchers are often steered towards exploring decennial US federal census records as a starting point. The typical advice is to begin with the most recently released census and then trace back each decade. Using *Ancestry.com* provides two nice features for census research; once you locate a family unit, 1) you can click on each individual member for related records so that 2) you can add to census

data by exploring other known records for each individual. Although this is not a perfect method, it saves time and allows beginners to find more than one record in even a short research session.

The best advice I ever received regarding working with US federal census records was to print out a blank copy of the form for each census year for easy reference to column headings. Remember, each census year revealed a few different pieces of data about individuals; analysis of multiple census records for the same individual or family helps genealogists to compile a more complete perspective of one’s life. Use the links and information on the *United States Census Bureau’s* website under “History” to learn what specific data was collected for each census schedule or questionnaire, found here [www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/questionnaires](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires).

Then, on the left menu, click on each decade to access a PDF image of the complete census questionnaire for that year. The most recent census available is from 1940, but the 1950 census will be indexed and made available in 2022, exactly seventy-two years after it was completed. Two other good general census guides can be found on *FamilySearch.org* using this link, [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Census\\_Forms](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Forms) or within the “Resources for Genealogists” section of the National Archives web site using this link, [www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms). Sites such as *Cyndi’s List* and databases such as *Ancestry.com* also offer links to census forms and an overview of data collected.

Some reminders and hints about using US federal census records include:

- Collect specific location/address data from the header of the census page and along the left margin, coupled with the house number. (Refer to column headings)
- Review recorded details across the entire census page. For example, what is each person’s relationship to the head of household? If the relationship is listed as “Boarder” or “Lodger” evaluate whether or not that person might be related!
- Note the location of each individual’s birth (state or country). Does the family remain in the same place, move to new places, have the same

neighbors, or even share the surname of a neighbor?

- Note occupations, as many trades have guild records . . . an additional resource for your research!
- Some census years listed health (including literacy) or education (years of school completed or current status). These are clues worth noting.
- The 1900 census listed the number of years married, which along with the ages of children, can bridge the gap back to the 1880 census (since the 1890 census is not available).
- The 1900 census listed also the number of children born to a woman and the number of children alive. It often appears as 7, 5, meaning the woman gave birth to 7 children, but only 5 are alive.
- Notice the place of birth of each person's father and mother; this is helpful with immigrant ancestors and migratory families.
- Look for a column (from 1900 on) about citizenship status; record the year of arrival for immigrant ancestors on two or more census schedules as well as the citizenship status. The three most common abbreviations used were **Pa** for First Papers, **Na** for Naturalized Citizens, and **Al** for those with alien status.
- Watch for both consistencies of census data for your ancestors *and* for inconsistencies. For example, your great-grandmother might list 1883 as her arrival year on the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses while her husband, your great-grandfather offers three distinct years of arrival. There is a kernel of truth in all records, and an error can appear from poor penmanship, forgetfulness, or simply the lack of knowledge of the family member who is informing the census taker. Chart all recorded data and save for analysis with other records.

If you print out the image of census records, include the source citation with the image. This practice saves searching time! For an elusive ancestor, create a time line to trace him or her across the decades by extracting certain data. Then, examine those “visual” facts for consistency or lack thereof. When trying to solve a recent query with a fellow genealogist, for example, I realized that although one certain ancestor disappeared after 1900, the entire rest of his family lived at the exact same address from 1880 through 1940! This type of analysis

leads to other records that can bolster one's research such as annual city directories, parish or church records, or tax records.

Many states conducted a state census which provides additional or different information than a federal census record. First, determine whether or not a state census was taken by referring to a state by state list of recorded censuses and for what years. Two great resources about state census records can be found on the “State Censuses” page of the Census Bureau's website at [www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other\\_resources/state\\_censuses.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html); the *FamilySearch Wiki* has similar information at this link: [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Census\\_State\\_Censuses](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_State_Censuses). Next, read about which databases or websites offer free access to state census records. Once you can access the state census records, you can potentially track a family or individual every five years, rather than just once a decade.

Census records offer clues to many aspects of ancestors' lives that can be collected and analyzed to compile a fuller picture of each individual. These details can reveal facts that will lead to records of births, deaths, marriages, land, occupations, education, immigration, and naturalization. Errors, sloppy handwriting, poor spelling, or even rips and stains can hinder your research or provide insight about individuals. Remember to take time to review the column headings when collecting factual data, and use multiple census years to create a time line about your ancestors. Analysis and evaluation of census records can provide more data than expected.

*[Editors' Note: During this membership year, we will highlight a record type each month and focus on how to use it in genealogical research.]*

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## **HOTEL LEDGER PROMPTS RESEARCH**

*By Sharon Cimoch, NHG Member*

A few months ago NHG put out a call for someone to transcribe a ledger that had been donated to the Northland Library. It was a hotel register with the entries dating from 1894 to 1898. Since I've transcribed other documents for

my own research, I volunteered to take on the project.

The two hundred-plus pages were filled, mostly with names of guests and the locations of their homes. As far as I could tell, the hotel was located in the Village of Ickesburg in Perry County, Pennsylvania. The guests were from towns and villages named Loysville, Bedford, Lewistown, Newport, and Duncannon with a few listing residences in other states and some from Europe including a German count.

As I typed the information on each page, I kept coming across the same names that were written in the margins or inside the cover of the book and in some cases it looked like someone was practicing their penmanship or working on math problems. Since I love a challenge, I decided to try to find out who those names belonged to. There was W. W. Gray, Thomas Gray, Harry Gray and a few others, all with the same surname of Gray.

First, I checked the census for the mid to late 1800s for anyone named Gray in Perry County or Ickesburg. I found the 1870 and 1880 census both listed a Thomas Gray in Spring Township, Perry County, with the post office of New Bloomfield. His occupation was given as hotel keeper for both years with the 1880 head of the family as a T. M. Gray. The rest of the family names matched in both cases.

Then I looked for a death certificate for Thomas or Thomas M. Gray and found that he died in 1928 and his father was John and mother Sarah Bower. With that information I was able to locate the family on the 1850 census naming John Gray, head, with Sarah and two boys, Thomas M. age 12 and Wilson Gray, age 7. Could Wilson be the W. W. Gray in the register? I had already decided that Thomas was one of the people referred to, while on ledger pages 37 and 81 there was a reference to "Ickesburg, Prop. W. W. Gray". If Thomas was the inn-keeper, did that mean that his brother Wilson was actually the owner? (That was one question for which I still haven't found an answer.)

When I searched more of the census records, I came up with Wilson W. Gray in 1900, married 34 years to Maggie A. and having a son Harry E.

D. Gray who was born in 1882. I was sure that I had found the person who had practiced their penmanship and arithmetic on so many of those pages. Harry would have been about twelve years old when the book was started in 1894 and a grade school student who would have had to do writing exercises.

In addition to finding a picture of a twenty-something young man, I traced Harry through the census records for 1920 and 1930 and then found his death certificate. He married a woman named Ida (who interestingly was 14 years older than him), was a manager of a machine works in 1920 and the treasurer of a machine tool manufacturing company in 1930. He continued to live in the same area of Perry County or in one case, Franklin County.

Harry's death certificate gave me something of a pause. He died at the age of 62 1/2 as a result of suicide. He shot himself at the River Bridge over the Newport River. This was also in Perry County. His wife was deceased by that time and they had no children. Did he become despondent being alone with no family?

Some questions to my search were answered while others will probably never be found. But here is what I *did* determine. In 1850, when the census first named all members of families, John Gray was the father of two sons, Thomas M. and Wilson W. Gray. Wilson and his wife Maggie had a son Harry E. DeCosta Gray, born in 1882 who probably lived or spent time at a hotel that his uncle kept. The hotel might have been owned by his father, Wilson. Tragically, the middle-aged Harry decided for some reason to take his own life, went to the local bridge and shot himself there. The family lived all their lives in the same area of Perry County, Pennsylvania. I guess you could say that they lived uneventful lives, never venturing far from their place of birth.

In a matter of just one evening, I was able to find six census records, two death certificates, and a photograph to follow one family through almost ninety-five years of their history. It's just an example of how you can take any name, research it and discover a number of interesting facts about them and their relatives. The same can be said of your ancestors.

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## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

### **Wednesday, 22 August 2018 6:00 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB**

NHG member Rebecca Kichta Miller will present "What Does It Mean to Be Scots-Irish?" Members and guests are welcome to participate in a pre-meeting social starting at 6:00. The program will start at 6:30. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Cranberry Public Library's Franklin Station Meeting Room. Please visit [www.cranberrygenealogy.org](http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org) for more information.

### **22–25 August 2018 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Registration is open for this year's conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A sneak peek of the program is available. The theme is *On the Three Rivers: Past, Present, & Future*. More than one hundred lectures and workshops will be presented during the conference. Please visit [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) for more information and a link to register.

### **Saturday, 25 August 2018 11:00 A.M. FORT PITT MUSEUM**

Dr. Timothy Shannon will present "Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson's American Odyssey." The lecture is based on his new book *Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson in America and Britain*. In June 1758, Williamson claimed that he was captured by the Delaware Indians and then repatriated to England as a prisoner of war. See [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events) for more details.

### **Monday, 27 August 2018 10:30 A.M. ZELIENOPLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

NHG Newsletter Co-Editor Susan Ennis will lead a workshop about 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. This workshop 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! Additional sessions will be held September 24th, October 22nd, and November 26th. The library's address is 227 South High Street, Zelienople, 16063. For more information, please visit [www.zelienoplelibrary.org](http://www.zelienoplelibrary.org).

### **Thursday, 6 September 2018 5:30 P.M. WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

WPGS will hold a series of classes about genetic genealogy. Ray Jones, the facilitator of NHG's DNA SIG, will lead the classes. The cost is \$35 for WPGS members and \$50 for non-members. The series consists of five classes, which will be held at the Main Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in the Pennsylvania Department's Conference Room. Registration is required. For more information, please visit [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org).

### **7–9 September 2018 PITTSBURGH IRISH FESTIVAL**

This annual event, held at the Riverplex at Sandcastle in West Homestead, features a variety of activities focused on Irish culture and history. For more information, please visit [www.pghirishfest.org](http://www.pghirishfest.org).

### **Saturday, 8 September 2018 10:30 A.M. WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Miles Richards will present a lecture about Simon Girty. The event will be held in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Department Conference Room. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org).

### **Monday, 17 September 2018 1:00 P.M. MT. LEBANON GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

Jim Stuber will present "FamilySearch and Family History Centers" at the group's next meeting. The group meets in one of the basement conference rooms at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, 15228. The meetings are free and open to the public.



More information is available at [www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society](http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society).

**21–23 September 2018**  
**FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY**  
**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

Family Tree University's annual fall conference will feature four tracks covering genetic genealogy, websites and tools, tips and tricks, and people and places. For more information and to register, please visit [www.familytreemagazine.com/university](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/university).

**22–23 September 2018**  
**MEADOWCROFT ROCK SHELTER**  
**AND HISTORIC VILLAGE**

Meadowcroft will host a Frontier Heritage Weekend featuring eighteenth-century traders. The event will include costumed European traders with authentic goods, black powder firearms, pit sawing, and open-hearth cooking. For more information, please visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

**22–23 September 2018**  
**LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES**

This annual event, held at Idlewild Park in Ligonier, features a variety of activities related to Scottish culture and history, including a Genealogy Pavilion. For more information, please visit [www.ligonierhighlandgames.org](http://www.ligonierhighlandgames.org).

**Saturday, 29 September 2018 11:00 A.M.**  
**FORT PITT MUSEUM**

The museum will host a commemoration of the 240th anniversary of the Treaty of Fort Pitt. The commemoration will include historical reenactments of the treaty negotiations, a lecture by Dr. David Preston, and traditional dances led by Delaware Indians. Additional details will be announced shortly. Watch [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events) for more details.

**Monday, 1 October 2018 7:00 P.M.**  
**SLOVAK HERITAGE GROUP**

The Slovak Heritage Group is sponsoring an event featuring Lisa Alzo. It will be held in

Meeting Room A of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Joe Senko at 412-343-5031 or [jsenko@msv-cpa.com](mailto:jsenko@msv-cpa.com).

**Sunday, 7 October 2018 10:00 A.M.**  
**HEINZ HISTORY CENTER**

The history center's annual Italian Heritage Day will feature an Italian American bazaar, music, arts and crafts activities, and family history consultations. For more information, please visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

**Saturday, 20 October 2018 11:00 A.M.**  
**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

WPGS and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh are co-sponsoring an author event featuring Kenyatta D. Berry, a co-host of the PBS series *Genealogy Roadshow*. Berry will discuss her new book, *The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy*. The event will be held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall in Oakland. For more information, visit [www.carnegielibrary.org/event/family-history-month-kenyatta-d-berry/](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/event/family-history-month-kenyatta-d-berry/).

**Saturday, 10 November 2018 10:30 A.M.**  
**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

WPGS and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh are co-sponsoring an author event featuring Dr. W. Thomas Mainwaring, the chair of the history department at Washington and Jefferson College. He will discuss his book *Abandoned Tracks: The Underground Railroad in Washington County*. The event will be held at the Main Branch of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org).

**Saturday, 17 November 2018 8:30 A.M.**  
**BUCKS COUNTY ANCESTRY FAIR**

CeCe Moore, the genetic genealogy expert, will be the featured speaker at this year's fair. The event will be held at Delaware Valley University's Life Sciences Building. For more information, please visit [www.ancestryfair.org](http://www.ancestryfair.org).

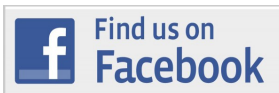
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## UPCOMING NHG PROGRAMS

### **Tuesday, 21 August 2018** **Researching Your Jewish Ancestors in Pennsylvania**

*Tammy A. Hepps*

Your Jewish ancestors in Pennsylvania contributed to a state with one of the oldest and richest Jewish histories. Learn how to identify your ancestors in each wave of settlement, unique record repositories for each region, and techniques for using these records to trace your ancestors backwards and forwards in time.

### **Tuesday, 18 September 2018** **An Archivist's Guide to Genealogical Research at the Heinz History Center**

*Sierra Green*

The Senator John Heinz History Center's Detre Library & Archives provides free access to a rich cache of more than a thousand archival collections that capture the unique

voices of Western Pennsylvania families, businesses, civic groups, organizations, and individuals. Green will share how to discover your ancestors in employment records, personal papers, local government records, funeral home records, and the records of churches and synagogues. She will also provide guidance on how to harness collections to recreate your ancestor's historical setting in Western Pennsylvania.

### **Tuesday, 16 October 2018** **Strategies & Techniques of Slave Research**

*Deborah A. Abbott, PhD*

The most difficult part of genealogical research for African Americans is finding and correctly identifying slave ancestors and their owners. Learn how to analyze documents for clues and resources needed to recreate an African American's journey from freedom to slavery to identifying potential slave owner(s). The importance of using census records, cluster research, and social history will be emphasized. Case studies will illustrate how different methods and resources can connect former slaves to their slave owner.