



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

NHG NEWS

Annual Conference – Early Bird Registration Deadline

The early bird registration deadline is Tuesday, 19 February. Blaine Bettinger and NHG's own Ray Jones, PhD, will help us learn about using DNA in genealogical research. The Friday sessions will focus on the basics of using DNA and have a case study about how the DNA test results can be used. The Saturday sessions will feature more advanced topics, including what to do with test results, how tools produced by organizations that do not offer testing can be helpful, and how to use test results in your research.

The conference will be held Friday and Saturday, 22–23 March at the Columbian Room in Wexford. On Friday we will have an optional dinner for those attending the afternoon and evening sessions. Saturday will include a hot buffet lunch and door prizes. For more details, please visit www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org or pick up a brochure at a meeting.

Special Opportunity for May Meeting

The Program Committee is seeking your photos! For our May monthly meeting on 21 May 2019, NHG will be hosting Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, via webinar. She'll be entertaining us with a "Photo Detective Roadshow," in which she'll provide new clues about photos which you might be having trouble identifying. These types of consultations usually cost \$20 per photo, but will be provided free of charge to a few lucky NHG members! If you are interested in having clues about your photo unveiled in front of the audience, please submit no more than two photos per member to programs@northhillsgenealogists.org. We will select the photos at random and inform you in advance of the event if your photos were selected. We

request that you be able to be present for the May meeting if your submission is selected. For more information about the May event, see www.northhillsgenealogists.org/eventListings.php?nm=47.

Register for February Meeting

The NHG website has recently been updated to provide a one-stop location for the various choices for attending our monthly meetings including in-person attendance at Northland or virtual attendance from home. When planning your meeting attendance, please go to this registration page: <http://register.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>.

Almost immediately after registering for the virtual attendance option, you will receive a message from NHG member Bill Spohn; the message will thank you for registering for the webinar, summarize the content of the meeting, and list step-by-step instructions for "How To Join The Webinar". In addition, you will receive two more messages from Mr. Spohn: a reminder twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting and a second message one hour prior to the start time of the meeting. NHG would like to thank member Bill Spohn for volunteering to organize the webinars!

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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.

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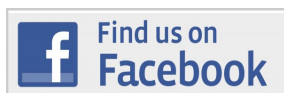
Editor@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

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

Although some benefits are tangible, one great benefit of membership in the North Hills Genealogists is the opportunity to interact with other genealogists to network about great resources, discuss successful research finds, or find solutions to brick walls.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The theme of our twelfth Annual Family History Conference is DNA and its use in genealogical research. The two-day conference will be held on March 22nd and 23rd and will feature lectures by Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, and NHG's own Ray Jones, PhD. Registration is open. Visit www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org to learn more.

DNA is an exciting tool and can be used for solving many complex problems in tracing our family history. This column is going to outline how I used DNA testing results and a number of mistaken assumptions to open up a line of my family that I never knew existed!

The story starts with a childhood friend of my father's named Milton Bemis. Over the years, I often felt that he must be a relative but was repeatedly assured by my father that he was—in fact—not. I had an autosomal test done a few years back and one of my many possible matches from the test was a person named Susan Bemis. Armed with the mind-set reinforced by my father that we had no Bemis relatives, I started on my contacts with what I perceived as more promising matches.

Switching forward, last year I was at an event in Erie and ran into a person named Jim Bemis. During some small talk, it came out this person was a son of the above mentioned Milton Bemis. We were both very excited because neither of us had ever met another member of our respective father's families. I related to him my long held theory that we must be relatives, but noted that the theory was repeatedly squelched by my father. He tended to agree with my father, but added that to be sure I should contact his daughter as she was the genealogist in his family. His daughter's name is Susan Bemis!

Of course, I couldn't wait to get to my computer and email my match Susan. I told her that I had just met her father, Jim, and discussed the possibility that we were related. I also pointed out that autosomal testing results raised that to a very real possibility.

Well, the treasure chest was opened. Her reply came quickly and she has worked on her family history for years. She enclosed an eleven page write-up about her great-great-grandfather Thomas Carr. Thomas married my paternal great-great-grandparents' youngest daughter—Mary Williams. That makes Susan and I third cousins, once removed. She also enclosed a great picture of Thomas Carr in his Civil War uniform and a picture of Mary, neither of which I had seen before. She filled in a lot of details on my tree.

But then came the kicker. Susan went on to say that "Jim Bemis is not my father. My father is Leon Eimers Bemis and Jim Bemis is nowhere in my tree!" I had contacted the wrong Susan Bemis! But she was a member of my family. So due to DNA testing, along with an erroneous mind-set and sheer luck, I had stumbled across a whole new branch of my family tree.

The column will end with this irony. Jim Bemis and I are related. After our initial meeting, his curiosity was aroused and he did some research of his own. It turns out that we share a great-great-grandfather on my mother's side!

~ Dave

NHG NEWS

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The NHG board believes we have corrected all variables that affected the audio portion; please keep in mind that our speaker is broadcasting from a room full of people and some background noise might be heard. However, the various microphones have been coordinated to remove the audio feedback.

No matter how you attend, plan to learn about the research and insight of author Christopher D. George at the February meeting of NHG!

Research Workshop Announced for 30 March
The third offering of a workshop about

Genealogy Research for Novices will be held on Saturday, 30 March 2019 in the meeting room at Northland Library from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. NHG member Carole Ashbridge will present the mini-lesson, focusing upon research and organizational tips. After the lesson, participants will work on researching their own family with support and assistance from NHG volunteers. Plan to bring your own tablet or laptop to use during the session.

Signing up in advance for this free, members only workshop is required by emailing NHG's Sue Ennis at Education@NorthHillsGenealogists.org no later than Friday, 29 March 2019. Include your first and last name, email address, and phone number. You will receive a confirmation email in return. For more details, read about this program at www.northhillsgenealogists.org/eventListings.php?nm=47.

Volunteers Needed

NHG needs one or two people to help with a table at Cranfest. This involves setting out the provided materials and answering questions about NHG and genealogy in general. Cranfest will be held Saturday, 6 April from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. If you would like to volunteer, see Sue Ennis at a meeting or email her at susanennis@verizon.net.

Officer Nominations

NHG's Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to run for our four officer positions in this year's election. Our officers are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Each office has specific responsibilities, plus officers need to attend our board meetings, which are held the first Tuesday of each month at Northland Public Library. If you are interested in learning more, please see Dave Egelston, Al Hartman, or Sue O'Connor at a meeting or send an email to Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

OHIO LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR BETTER ACCESS TO RECORDS

According to the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), the state of Ohio has passed a bill that

lifts restrictions on public access to records. HB 139 was signed into law by then Governor John Kasich on 7 January 2019; he has since completed his term as governor. The details of this law may be read at www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-139.

To summarize this exciting change for genealogists, the legislation “lifts public access restrictions on records for permanent retention 75 years after their creation.” This means there are no waiting periods for obtaining birth and death records ordered through the Ohio Department of Health, found at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home>. On the other hand, marriage records must be ordered through a specific probate court. For an overview of the guidelines, refer to <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/vital-statistics/vital-statistics>.

Another change now permits the redaction of a birth parent’s name from an original birth certificate. “Certain types of records are excepted from the 75-year rule,” as stated on the website for Ohio’s vital statistics and in the verbiage of the bill. “Some records are subject to court rulings statewide, such as adoption records, probation and parole proceedings, confidential law enforcement investigatory records, DNA records stored in the DNA database, and court lunacy records.” Each county’s judge has been granted independent rulings by the Ohio Supreme Court for that county’s records. Despite some intricacies of HB 139, genealogists with roots in Ohio have gained an advantage.

WEBSITE OFFERS METHOD FOR VISUALIZING DNA MATCHES

Biologist and genealogist Dana Leeds launched her website in August 2018 to announce her DNA Color Clustering creation and explain ways to utilize it for analyzing your own DNA results. The Leeds Method allows organization of DNA matches by color coding cousins into branches of your family tree such as a color for each set of great-grandparents. She has allowed for adoptees, unknown parentage, and step-families within the Leeds Method. In addition, Dana Leeds has a blog that focuses on genetic

genealogy, and she will present multiple workshops during the upcoming RootsTech 2019 at the end of February. (Look at the RootsTech live-streaming schedule for presenter Dana Leeds.) The website DanaLeeds.com, DNA Color Clustering with The Leeds Method can be found at www.danaleeds.com.

GRO COPY FEES INCREASE IN FEBRUARY

According to the United Kingdom’s Federation of Family History Societies, the General Register Office (GRO) “will increase the price of birth, marriage, and death certificates and of PDF versions effective 16 February 2019.” For paper certificates, the price will increase from £9.25 to £11.00 while the PDF copies will increase from £6.00 to £7.00. Note that the PDF version does not contain the official crest or signature and cannot be used as legal evidence. For official purposes, the certificate copy is preferred. The details and prices are listed on the GRO site at www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate if ordering records from England or Wales.

Records from Scotland and Northern Ireland are not affected by the price increase. For records from Scotland, refer to the directions on this page: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/registration/how-to-order-an-official-extract-from-the-registers. For records from Northern Ireland, visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/ordering-life-event-certificates.

RECORDS SPOTLIGHT: CHURCH RECORDS

By Amy Arner, NHG Newsletter Co-Editor

Last fall we published a series of three articles about the civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths in this series. In many places, those records do not exist until relatively recently. Sacramental records created by churches can help researchers fill this gap. Churches record baptisms, marriages, and burials, which are a bit different than births, marriages, and deaths.

Baptisms

Many, but not all, denominations practice infant

baptism. In the denominations that do, a child is usually baptized relatively quickly after birth, most often within a few months. In these cases, particularly if you can identify the congregation's typical practice, a baptismal record can substitute for a birth record. Note, however, that not all denominations practice infant baptism. If your ancestors were members of one of those denominations, you will not be able to use baptismal records as substitutes for birth records. For an excellent overview of the baptismal practices of various denominations, read *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records* by John T. Humphrey. The book focuses on denominations with congregations in what became the United States during the colonial period, but the information applies to most other time periods. Northland Public Library has a copy of the book.

The information included in a baptismal record depends upon the time frame, denomination, and age of the person being baptized. For infant baptisms, the records usually include the name of the child, the name of the father, and the names of any godparents or sponsors. Other information that may be recorded includes the name of the mother, the occupation of the father, the residence of the parents, and the name of the officiant.

Marriages

There may be multiple records generated in a church when a couple marries. The most obvious is the marriage record, which includes the names of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, the name of the officiant, and sometimes the place of the marriage or the names of the witnesses. Catholic marriage records sometimes include the place of birth of the bride and groom, particularly if they were not born in the parish where they were married.

Another record that may be created is banns. Before getting married, the couple had to announce their intention to marry. The idea was to give the community an opportunity to object to the proposed marriage on legal or religious grounds. Examples of valid objections include one of the parties being married already or the couple being related too closely. Sometimes the banns were read from the pulpit without being recorded in any way. Sometimes the clergy

recorded the dates they read the banns for a couple. If the banns were recorded, you will almost always find the names of the parties. You may also find the residences of the parties, particularly if they were members of different congregations or parishes. This is particularly true in the Church of England.

Burials

Burial records can be a substitute for a death record. Usually a body is buried within a few days of death. Typically a burial record will include the name of the deceased, the age of the deceased, the date of burial, and the place of burial. You may also find the date of death and the place of birth.

Other Records

Various other records are kept by churches depending upon the denomination. These can include membership lists, communion lists, confirmation lists, pew rentals, church newsletters, anniversary booklets, church histories, and more. Presbyterians keep session minutes, in which a secretary records the business of the church. This could include admitting new members, disciplining members, expelling members, hiring a new pastor, or raising funds for a project. Methodists kept class lists. Classes were small groups of people in a congregation who met regularly to work on their own salvation.

More information about church records and how to use them in genealogical research is available in several places. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, has a chapter about church records, as does Val Greenwood's *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. There are several editions of both books, but the information will be similar in each edition. Northland has copies of both. The FamilySearch Wiki has numerous articles about church records. These are organized by country, so you'll need to search for the country name with the phrase *church records*. As an example, there is an article about church records in the United States at www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Church_Records.

Determining Which Church Your Ancestor Attended

Before you can look for church records for your

ancestors, you need to determine which church they attended. The first step in this process is to look at other records:

- Newspapers – A church or clergyman might be mentioned your ancestor's death notice or obituary.
- Civil marriage records – The name of the officiant for a marriage can be a clue to church membership.
- Probate records – Your ancestor may have mentioned a specific church or cemetery in his or her will, particularly if they left money for masses to be said in their memory or for a tombstone to be erected. If the cemetery mentioned is associated with a church, you will want to look at the records of that church.
- Published county histories – Check to see if your ancestor has a biography included in one of these. The biographies often mention church affiliation.
- City directories – Our ancestors usually lived near the church they attended. In urban areas, you can identify churches and their locations using directories. Use that information with a street map from the era to plot where your ancestor lived in relation to the churches.
- Deeds – Did your ancestor sell land to a church for a cemetery or a location for a new building? If so, they may have attended that church.

If none of the records listed above provide the information you want, there are a few other options to try:

- Look first at the records for the dominant denomination in the area where your ancestor lived. In early Pennsylvania, the most common denomination was the Society of Friends (Quakers). If your ancestor lived in an area where there was a state church, start with the records for that church. For example, during the colonial era, the Church of England was the state church of Virginia.
- Look at the ethnic group of your ancestor. If they were German, start with Lutheran, Reformed, or Catholic churches. If they were Scottish, start with Presbyterian or Anglican churches. If they were African American, start with Baptist or African Methodist Episcopal churches. You want to focus on the churches of the relevant denomination that were closest to where your ancestor lived.

Finding Church Records

Once you've identified the church your ancestor attended, you need to locate the records for that church. You may be tempted to start by contacting the church, but that is not always the most efficient method. Churches are private organizations, and there is no requirement for them to allow researchers to access their records. Plus, the church of interest may no longer exist. When looking for church records, I start with the Family History Library catalog, available at www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search. I search for a place in the catalog—a county or town and then look for the subject heading “Church records” in the results. Doing this for Pittsburgh yields ninety-two entries in the catalog. There may also be entries under the subject heading “Church histories.” There are twenty-four catalog entries for Pittsburgh under this heading. If any of the entries in the catalog are relevant to my research, I can then make arrangements to view the records.

Public libraries are another place to look, especially those with genealogy or local history collections. They may have published abstracts or extracts of church records or they may have church histories. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Department has both types of works in their collection. Historical societies may also have published material on churches or they may have records on microfilm or in manuscript collections. The Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives has material in all three formats.

University libraries may have church records in published form or on microfilm. If the library has an archives section, they may also have manuscript materials. The University of Pittsburgh's Archives & Special Collections has an extensive collection of church records on microfilm. Their holdings are described at <https://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12551&p=66410>.

If the church no longer exists and the places listed above do not have any relevant material, I contact the denominational archives. Most denominations have one or more archives dedicated to preserving material from closed churches as well as the denomination's governing bodies. Examples include the Presbyterian

Historical Society (www.history.pcusa.org), the American Baptist Historical Society (www.abhsarchives.org), and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives and Records Center (www.diopitt.org/archives).

Only contact a church about their records after looking in the places mentioned above. If you need to contact a church, remember several things. First, the church's primary purpose is to serve the congregation. Church staff or volunteers may not have the time to search records on your behalf. Second, the church does not have to make its records available to researchers. In my experience, the access policy varies widely. I've contacted churches that welcomed me to use their records—even going as far as offering me a cup of tea while I was there! I've also attempted to contact churches that never responded to repeated inquiries, whether by email, postal mail, or telephone. If you do talk to someone at the church, I recommend offering a monetary donation to the church in return for the person's time and trouble.

Above all else, please be polite to whomever you contact at the church. The staff and volunteers are much more likely to help someone who treats them courteously. Interacting with a genealogist who is not polite may make the staff or volunteers less likely to help the next genealogist who contacts them.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Saturday, 23 February 2019 10:00 A.M.
EVANS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ancestry Library Edition is now available at the Evans City Public Library, 204 S. Jackson Street, Evans City. NHG Newsletter Co-Editor Susan Ennis will host a workshop that is set up to present a demonstration about genealogy research followed by hands-on practice using the library's Ancestry database. Please bring your own laptop or tablet computer to use. Registration is recommended if you plan to attend. Call or email the library at 724-538-8695 or evanscity@bcfls.org to register.

Monday, 25 February 2019 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. The library's address is 227 South High Street, Zelienople, 16063. For more information, please visit www.zelienoplelibrary.org.

Tuesday, 26 February 2019 6:00 P.M.
BUTLER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Butler Library will host "Genealogy 101," which is aimed at beginning researchers and those who have taken a long break from the hobby. The program will be held in the Basement Meeting Room. The program is free, but registration is required. To register, email mhewitt@bcfls.org or sign up at the library's front desk. The library's address is 218 North McKean Street, 16001.

Wednesday, 27 February 2019 6:30 P.M.
CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

Cranberry will welcome back Ryan Henrie, the director of the Cranberry Family History Center (FHC). He will present "Find Answers with the FamilySearch Affiliate Library," explaining how to access databases at the Cranberry Public Library as well as at the FHC. The meeting will be held in the Cranberry Public Library's Franklin Station Meeting Room. The meeting is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.cranberrygenealogy.org.

27 February–2 March 2019
ROOTSTECH

Registration is open for RootsTech, an annual conference held in Salt Lake City. Lectures about DNA, methodology, organization, records, social media, and technology are scheduled. For more information and to register, please visit www.rootstech.org. Each day several sessions will be presented live via their website. A list of the sessions is available at www.rootstech.org/salt-lake/live-stream-schedule.

Saturday, 9 March 2019 10:30 A.M.
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NHG's Rebecca Kichta Miller will present "What's New in Irish Family History Research?" The program is free and open to the public. It will be held in the South Wing Reading Room of the Main Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. For more information, please visit www.wpgs.org.

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 6:00 P.M. CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

NHG Newsletter Co-Editor Susan Ennis will host a workshop focused on improving genealogical research skills. There will be a demonstration followed by hands-on practice using the library's resources. Please bring your own laptop or tablet computer to use. The program is free, but registration is required. Please visit www.cranberrytownship.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=14401&month=2&year=2019&day=12&calType=0 to register.

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 6:15 P.M. BUTLER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NHG's Rebecca Kichta Miller will present "What's New in Irish Family History Research?" The program is free and open to the public. It will be held in the lower level conference room of the Butler Area Public Library, 218 North McKean Street, 16001. For more information, please visit www.bcgs.us.

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 7:00 P.M. CORNERSTONE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Cornerstone's next meeting will feature the Watt Museum's traveling exhibit entitled "The Early Years of Oil Production and Consumption in West Virginia." The program will be held at Cornerstone's facility in the First Greene County Courthouse Annex, 144 East Greene Street, Waynesburg, 15370. Please visit www.cornerstonegenealogy.com for more information.

Monday, 18 March 2019 9:00 A.M.

HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

Registration is open for the annual Irish Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Heinz History Center and the Westmoreland County Historical Society. Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation will return to present seven lectures about Irish research. More information and a link to register are available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/irish-genealogy-workshop-2019.

Monday, 18 March 2019 1:00 P.M. MT. LEBANON GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Jim Stuber will present "Researching Ancestors Using Online Newspaper Sites." The meeting will be held in one of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library's lower level conference rooms. The library's address is 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, 15228. The meeting is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/306/Genealogy-Society.

22-23 March 2019 NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

Registration is open for NHG's annual conference. The theme for the 2019 conference is using DNA in genealogical research. More details are available at www.northhillsgenealogists.org/cpage.php?pt=77.

22-24 March 2019 FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY

Registration is open for Family Tree University's Virtual Genealogy Conference. The conference will have several focus areas, including DNA, websites and technology, and people and places. For more information and to register, please visit www.familytreemagazine.com/store/university/2019-spring-virtual-genealogy-conference-q0270.

3-6 April 2019 NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONSORTIUM

The theme for this year's conference is *Family—A Link to the Past & a Bridge to the Future*. The

conference will be held in Manchester, New Hampshire. More information is available at www.nergc.org/2019-conference.

5–6 April 2019
FAIRFAX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Registration is open for the Fairfax Genealogical Society's annual conference. The featured speakers will be Diahan Southard and J. Mark Lowe, CG. The event will be held at the Reston Sheraton in Reston, Virginia. More information is available at www.fxgs.org.

Saturday, 13 April 2019 11:00 A.M.
FORT PITT MUSEUM

Author and historian Patrick Spero will discuss his new book, *Frontier Rebels: The Fight for Independence in the American West, 1765–1776*. Registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/frontier-rebellion-fight-independence-american-west.

Saturday, 27 April 2019 9:00 A.M.
MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG, will be the featured speaker at this year's MAGS conference. Topics will include German farm names, Hanoverian military records, historical understanding historical jurisdictions, and a case study. The conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Laurel, Maryland. Please visit www.magsgen.com for more information and to register.

1–4 May 2019
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The program for the annual Ohio Genealogical Society Conference is now available. Featured speakers will include David Rencher, Michael Lacopo, and Lisa Louise Cook. The early bird registration deadline is 29 March. The event will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. Please visit www.ogsconference.org for more information.

8–11 May 2019
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The annual NGS conference will be held in St. Charles, Missouri. The theme is *Journey of Discovery*. Lecture tracks will focus on DNA, methodology, migration, records, and more. Registration for the conference is open, with an early-bird deadline of 19 March. More information is online at <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Saturday, 18 May 2019 9:00 A.M.
HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

Registration is open for an Italian Genealogy Workshop. NHG's own past president Rich Venezia will present two lectures focused on Italian genealogy. Details about the lectures and registration information are available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/italian-genealogy-workshop-2019.

31 May–2 June 2019
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JAMBOREE

Registration is open for the fiftieth annual Genealogy Jamboree. The event will feature more than 120 classes over the three days. It will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott in Burbank, California. For more information, please visit www.genealogyjamboree.com/jamboree-2019.

23–28 June 2019
14–19 July 2019
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Registration for both sessions of GRIP will open on Wednesday, February 20th. For more information, please visit www.gripitt.org.

29 July–2 August 2019
GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE ON FEDERAL RECORDS

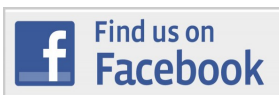
Registration for this year's Gen-Fed will open Saturday, February 23rd. Watch www.gen-fed.org for more information.



P.O. Box 169
Wexford, PA 15090

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



UPCOMING NHG PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 19 February 2019 **Understanding my Civil War Ancestor: The Search for Pieces to the Puzzle**

Christopher D. George

George will explain his discovery of his Civil War ancestor and the quest to understand what his great-great-grandfather's life was like before, during, and after the war. In telling the twists and turns of his search, which led to the publication of his book *Day-by-day with the 123d Pennsylvania Volunteers*, George will discuss the many resources and repositories that were helpful in understanding both his relative and what life was like in 1860s Pittsburgh.

Tuesday, 19 March 2019 **Organizing Family Trees: *Reunion* and *RootsMagic* Genealogy Software as Tools**

Elissa Scalise Powell and Susan Ennis

Ever wonder if there is a better way to organize and work with your family history information? Want to share information with your family but are concerned about privacy? Using genealogy software to preserve your research is a great way to keep notes, add media, include citations, and produce a variety of reports. Our presenters will show you the inner workings of their favorite tools, demonstrating *Reunion* and *RootsMagic* while discussing their benefits.

Tuesday, 16 April 2019 **Semi-Annual Round Table**

NHG Members

Join us for an evening of sharing questions, answers, and helpful hints among all attendees. This program is a combination of information, guidance, and cousin-finding for those attending. 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 during this terrific information exchange!