



A TALE OF GENEALOGICAL SERENDIPITY

Written by Ruth Salvador, NHG Member

Serendipity is the chance finding of valuable or agreeable things not sought. We family genealogists follow the advice of all the experts. We faithfully complete our charts, carefully take notes, and meticulously plan our next project, BUT there are those rare but wonderful occasions when the unexpected treasure appears. Here is my anecdote of genealogical serendipity.

My father's cousin Anne Marie, who did not know our branch of the Schmieler family existed, found my brother's name and telephone number for his vacation place along the Clarion River. Schmieler was her maiden name, and when you find a surname as unusual as that, you're pretty sure you have located a relative.

I had very little information about my grandfather Joseph Schmieler. He died at the age of 28 when my father, his only child, was two years old. My grandmother Annie never remarried and raised my father with her family. Here is what we knew (source):

- ✓ Joseph was born in 1877 and died in 1905. (Tombstone)
- ✓ Joseph emigrated from somewhere in Germany. (Annie)
- ✓ Joseph had two older brothers Peter and Carl. (Annie)
- ✓ Peter had descendants in Cleveland, Ohio, and in southwestern Pennsylvania. (Annie)
- ✓ Carl once lived in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. (Annie)

- ✓ Joseph was a handsome young man. (Two photos of Joseph)

Anne Marie was Peter's daughter and the keeper of her family's history. She brought the family narrative with her to the meeting with my brother. In addition to the information about her brothers and half-brothers, she shared biographical facts of Joseph's parents and grandparents.

- ✓ Joseph's father-Karl Schmieler b: 17 Apr 1844 Zell on Mosel, Germany d: 10 Feb 1892 Zell on Mosel. Occupation: Tanner and Restaurant Owner. Joseph's mother-Eva Immig b: Unknown, d: Unknown.
- ✓ Joseph's grandfather-Wilhelm Schmieler b: 01 Oct 1805 Klotten on Mosel, Germany. Joseph's grandmother-Katharina Heitger b: 19 Apr 1805 Trier on Mosel, Germany, d: 24 Jan 1876 Zell on Mosel.

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WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month, except December, at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Township in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 P.M., and our general meeting commences at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a newsletter ten times a year for a nominal membership fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join the North Hills Genealogists mid-year will receive back issues of the newsletter for that membership year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each containing helpful hints for beginners and for experienced genealogists.

The North Hills Genealogists Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the North Hills Genealogists organization. Consider joining us this year!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In the last two newsletters, a comparison of the worlds of genealogy and running has been discussed. While pointing out the similarities, I also launched into a travel documentary describing the various places I have run marathons. October's column left off with my decision to run a marathon on all seven continents, noting that three of them had already been completed by 1999 – North America, Europe and Antarctica. So I was now on a mission to complete the final four!

The mission started with a vengeance, with three continents undertaken in 2000. The first was the Millennium Marathon held in Hamilton, New Zealand on January 1. While billed as the first marathon of the new millennium, there were many that stated that the distinction could only apply to an event held on or after 1 January 2001. This was a technicality, which we all chose to ignore. Also adding to the adventure was the Y2K factor – the fear that the industrial world as we know it would come to an end on 12:01 A.M. on 1 January 2000, because computers would not be able to handle the conversion. Since New Zealand is the first industrialized country to see a new day, we would be the first to see its supposed demise. And if the world shut down, what better place could we be than on that beautiful island country?

Fortunately, no disaster occurred, and the marathon proceeded as planned. Getting up at three o'clock in the morning to catch the bus to the start line somewhat diminished my New Year's Eve celebration, which consisted of a glass of ginger ale at nine o'clock.

The Beijing Marathon followed in October of that year. It was probably the most thrilling start of any of my races, with the start line in Tiananmen Square radiating directly out from the Gate of Heavenly Peace. During my visit to the country, I actually became skilled enough to
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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be able to pick one peanut at a time out of a bowl of peanuts with chopsticks – an expertise which I have since lost.

The last race of the year was the Maraton Internacional in Vina Del Mar, Chile. It was the inaugural running of that race and was a great production. It was also a study in simplicity – we were taken twenty-six miles out of the city on the main north-south road along the coast and told to run back. We were within shouting distance of the Pacific Ocean for most of the way and treated to some fascinating scenery.

It took until June, 2002, to complete the seventh continent – Africa. That one was the Safaricom Marathon run in the 62,000-acre Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Lewa is home to black and white rhino, herds of elephant, lions, and a wide variety of other plains game including oryx, eland, zebra, giraffe, and buffalo. Elephants, giraffes, and zebras were spotted during the run. In fact, the start of the run had to be delayed while an obstinate bull elephant was gently coaxed off of the course a short distance from the start line.

Running the seven continents has repeatedly highlighted to me the most striking similarities with our common pursuit of genealogy – the great groups of people who are involved in both activities! They are not only willing, but very eager, to help out with hints and tips. Bring a problem to them, and there are instantly solutions being thrown together. They are always ready to share experiences.

Of course, there are the other similarities that have been mentioned in previous columns. They are both definitely long haul projects, which require a lot of physical and mental stamina. There are “aid stations” involved with both to keep you going. One dispenses knowledge, while the other dispenses sustenance such as water and fruit.

One similarity not mentioned before is the existence of “walls” in both quests. We all know about our brick walls in family research. There is also “the wall” in running. That is the point at which your mind and body give out, and you wonder why you ever started this foolishness. Most of the time you can fight your way through it. Once I couldn’t. At the twenty-mile mark of the Cuba Havana Marathon on a hot and humid day, I sat down on the curb and asked – aloud and in English – if someone could call a cab. Fortunately, a young man nearby understood and did just that. In runners’ parlance, it is known as a DNF – did not finish. May this never happen to you in any of your genealogical pursuits!

So this ends my comparison of my two main hobbies and the accompanying travelogue. I will leave it up to you at this point to decide whether genealogy and marathoning really do share a common DNA. Let me know what you think.

~Dave

Since this will be the last newsletter of 2008, let me take the opportunity to wish each of you and your families the very best of the Holiday Season! I hope good fortune smiled on you throughout this year. Have a healthy, happy and genealogically prosperous 2009!

GENEALOGICAL SERENDIPITY

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Then there was the greatest treasure of all: “Auf Wiedersehn,” a letter Karl wrote to his wife and children when he knew he was dying. Her family found it among Peter’s papers and had the letter translated from German into English. I could have searched every known church or civil record and never found that letter.

All of this came from an unexpected phone call from an unknown relative, who looked for an unusual surname in a small town phone book where we did not live.

FALL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

CONFERENCE THANKS

Submitted by Amy Arner, Conference Chair

We had a great conference on 25 October. I'd like to thank all of our volunteers: Linda Braund, Linda Casavale, Irene Dinning, Mary Dzurichko, Joe Eiden, Sue Ennis, Pat Gelston, Al Hartman, Marion O'Brien, Elissa Powell, Reed Powell, Amy Prager, Ruth Salvador, Gary Schlemmer, Doree Shields, Kathy White, and Dave Williams. The conference would not have been possible without their help.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The first-ever NHG Fall Conference on 25 October 2008 was very successful. Fifty-two genealogists participated in the day's events. Although one of the scheduled speakers, Pam Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, had to cancel at the last minute, the conference was modified to provide a full schedule of programs. The dynamic and informative featured speaker, J. Mark Howe, CG, presented three of the four large group sessions, with Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, filling in for the fourth session. Reed Powell stepped up to conduct one of the small group sessions, discussing technology. These adjustments allowed for a choice of sessions in two time slots.

Seven conference attendees travelled more than 100 miles to enjoy the day! The breakfast food was plentiful, and the hot lunch was delicious. Some of the positive comments received on the exit surveys included:

- "Thanks! One of the best seminars I have attended – depth of info!"
- "Very informative and useful!"
- "The conference was excellent – do it again!"
- "I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank you so much!"

Plans are now being initiated to hold a second NHG Fall Conference in October, 2009.

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

ANNUAL NHG ROUND TABLE

The Annual NHG Round Table Discussion tonight is your chance to ask questions, exchange ideas, and share experiences, roadblocks, and discoveries with your fellow genealogists. It's also a great opportunity to meet others from the North Hills area, who share a common interest in genealogy and family history research. This is one of the most popular meetings of the year when a variety of genealogical topics are discussed.

Saturday, 6 December 2008

NHG ANNUAL SOCIAL

CARNEGIE LIBRARY, OAKLAND

Tour the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library in Oakland with Marilyn Holt, followed by lunch at the Cafe in the Carnegie's complex. This event begins at 10:30 A.M. and is the perfect occasion to be introduced to a vast collection of research data close to home, as well as to meet and socialize with others in our NHG group. All are welcome. The Cafe is "cafeteria style" and reasonably priced with a varied selection of foods. If you are planning to attend, please **RSVP no later than** Tuesday, December 2, by sending an e-mail to us at **INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org**, or by phoning Mary Dzurichko at (412) 334-9778, so that we may notify our tour guide and the Café of our numbers.

Tuesday, 20 January 2009

PLANNING A RESEARCH TRIP

Susan L. Ennis, NHG newsletter editor, will deliver a presentation on preparing for a research trip. Suggestions for pre-arranging part or all of a research trip will be discussed along with ideas for remote research around Pennsylvania and states beyond. An educator and librarian for over 25 years, Sue Ennis will also offer hints for getting quickly acclimated to each repository you visit.

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 17 February 2009 DATING PHOTOGRAPHS

Mary Dzurichko, NHG programs chair, will present a program about dating photographs, providing guidance and resources to assist you in your efforts. If you have a photo that has you stumped, please bring it to the February NHG Meeting, and we will try to help with as many as time permits. If possible, bring the photo in an electronic format, CD or thumb drive, so that it is easily viewed by all who attend the meeting. Mary is a member of NHG, WPGS, and the Mercer County Genealogical Society and has been involved with family research for eight years. Her father was a photographer, so she is archiving the thousands of photos and negatives found in his darkroom.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

19 NOVEMBER 2008 7:00 P.M. CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

This month's meeting of the Cranberry Genealogy Club will be held on Wednesday, 19 November 2008. Note that we are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of November due to Thanksgiving. There is no meeting in December 2008.

The Cranberry Genealogy Club meets throughout the year in the Public Library Conference Room at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road. For detailed information, visit their website at <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>.

19 NOVEMBER 2008 7:00 P.M. BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Daniel Barr, a Commonwealth Speaker, will present "A World on Fire: George Washington's Military Career in Pennsylvania" at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive in Monaca at 7:00 P.M on 19 November 2008.

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

This lecture is presented in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Daniel Barr is assistant professor of history at Robert Morris University, where he specializes in Native American history, Colonial and Revolutionary America, Pennsylvania history, and early Pittsburgh history. He is the author of two books, *The Boundaries between Us: Natives and Newcomers on the Frontiers of the Old Northwest Territory, 1750-1850*, and *Unconquered: The Iroquois League at War in Colonial America*. He has just completed a book about the founding of Pittsburgh, which will be released in late 2008 under the title *A Colony Sprung from Hell: War and Society on the Pittsburgh Frontier, 1744-1794*. For more information about the Beaver County Genealogical Society, go to their web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs/> or call (724) 847-9253.

10 JANUARY 2009 10:00 A.M. WPGS

The next meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, 10 January 2009 at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue in the Oakland Area of Pittsburgh. This meeting is free and open to the public with the topic to be announced. Other upcoming dates for WPGS Programs in 2009 are 14 February, 14 March, and the annual April Spring Seminar, date to be decided. For more information about WPGS, go to their web site at: <http://www.wpgs.org> or call (412) 687-6811.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES 2009

13-16 May 2009 Raleigh, North Carolina
National Genealogical Society Conference in the States—"The Building of a Nation: From Roanoke to the West." For more information, visit <http://www.ngsgenalogy.org>.

2-5 September 2009 Little Rock, Arkansas
Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference; for more information, visit the site at <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php>.

NHG DONATES BOOKS TO THE GENEALOGY COLLECTION AT NORTHLAND LIBRARY

The North Hills Genealogists recently donated nine new books to the Genealogy Collection of Northland Library. The total value of the donated books is \$238.25. In collaboration with Northland's genealogical librarian, Amy Steele, books were selected to meet the needs of Northland's patrons.

Listed below is the list of reference books recently donated by NHG:

- *In Search of Your German Roots*, 4th Edition, by Angus Baxter;
- *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry*, 3rd Edition, by Kathleen B. Cory;
- *Basic Guide to Irish Records for Family History*, by Brian Mitchell;
- *The Surnames of Wales for Family Historians and Others*, by John and Sheila Rowlands;
- *Searching for Scots-Irish Roots in Scottish Records, 1600-1750*, by David Dobson;
- *Welsh Founders of Pennsylvania*, 2 volumes in 1, by Thomas Allen Glenn;
- *Missing Relatives and Lost Friends*, by Robert W. Barnes;
- *Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists Who Came to America Before 1700*, 8th Edition, by Frederick Lewis Weis;
- *Finding and Using African American Newspapers*, by Timothy Pinnick.

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS FROM THE NHG FALL CONFERENCE

Congratulations to: **Elizabeth Brock**: Ancestry.com 1-year subscription; **Blanche Francetic**: *The Source: A Guidebook for American Genealogy*, donated by Ancestry.com; *Evidence Explained*, donated by the Genealogical Publishing Company and won by **Carol Walkins**; and Footnote.com 1-year subscription awarded to **Joanne Politano**.

NHG ADDED TO FACEBOOK!

Written by Amy E. K. Arner

NHG is now a group on Facebook. We have posted general information about the society, and will be posting information about meetings and events. On Facebook, there is also a discussion board and a way to share photos. Facebook can be found on the Internet at <http://www.Facebook.com>, and is a social networking site you can use to find new or old friends. To find NHG after logging in, use the search box in the upper right hand corner of the screen to search for "North Hills Genealogists." Come and join us on Facebook!

QUERIES

FUCHS FAMILY, Louis, Louis, Jr., Mary, Anna – Lawrenceville, 1860-1900. **FUCHS, FEY, STALEY**, Pittsburgh and Indiana Twp. Contact: **Joyce Purdue, 4107 St. Thomas Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9725**.

DZURICHKO, DZURICKO, DZURICKO, HAJNIK, YURKO, MIKLOS. Farrell, Sharon, Pittsburgh, Donora, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, and Exeter Boro, PA. Also, Youngstown, Cleveland, OH, and Yonkers, NY.

Siblings of YURKO, Nicholas, b. 12/19/1864 or '70 in Slovakia. Imm. 1882, Passaic and Trenton, NJ; Coitsville Twp., Mahoning Co., OH; Aliquippa, Beaver Co., PA; Farrell, Mercer Co., PA; Weirton, Hancock Co., WV; d.5/22/1944. Contact: **Mary Dzurichko, 1040 Kirsopp Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15220-4019 or call her at (412) 334-9778**.

HEIL, Nicholas, Occ: Grocer, **LIMPERT, Conrad**, Occ: Machinist – Imm. From Hesse, Germany-1800s to early 1900s, Lawrenceville, Pittsburgh, PA. **BROWN/SMITH**, New England and Ohio. **KOONTZ**, PA, VA, OH. **SLEYZAK**, Czechoslovakia and PA. **SKANDER**, Croatia and PA. Contact: **Virginia C. Skander, 2549 Lah Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044-8329 or skanderv@connecttime.net**.

INTERIOR SECRETARY KEMPTHORNE PRESENTS PLANS TO EXPAND ELLIS ISLAND MUSEUM TO REFLECT ENTIRE IMMIGRATION STORY

Press Release

New York, NY (24 September 2008) – Today in Ellis Island's historic Great Hall, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne joined The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. and the National Park Service in unveiling the plans for a significant expansion of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum to be called **The Peopling of America® Center**. Designed by ESI Design, this exciting new Center will enlarge the story currently told of the Ellis Island Era (1892-1954) to include the entire panorama of the American immigration experience, with exhibits dedicated to those who arrived before Ellis, as well as those who arrived post-1954, right up to the present. It will illustrate the American immigration story across the generations and the important role immigrants have played in the making of this great nation.

“This expansion will not only significantly broaden the scope of this wonderful museum's content, but also its relevancy to the more diverse audiences who visit America's national parks today,” said Secretary Kempthorne. “To reflect this expanded mission, I am delighted to announce that upon completion of the Center, this museum will be re-named *Ellis Island: The National Museum of Immigration*.” Secretary Kempthorne went on to announce that 2.3 million dollars have been committed to **The Peopling of America® Center** as part of the National Park Service Centennial Challenge Initiative, and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation is providing \$1.5 million in matching funds, along with a \$1 million match by the Annenberg Foundation.

“Bank of America is proud to be the Founding Partner for this dynamic and timely project, which is consistent with other investments we

have made to preserve our nation's heritage,” said Andrew D. Plepler, Global Community Impact Executive and President, Bank of America Charitable Foundation. “Underwriting The Citizenship Gallery is a natural fit with our company's role as the Bank of Opportunity. Our business and our philanthropy are focused on creating economic opportunity for individuals and businesses, and helping communities thrive.”

Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, Trustee of the Annenberg Foundation comments, “On behalf of the Annenberg Foundation, I am delighted to support **The Peopling of America® Center**. We believe that sharing ideas and knowledge is critical to the improved public well-being. We hope that the visitors to the New Eras of Immigration Gallery, underwritten by the Annenberg Foundation, will leave with a deeper appreciation for what is possible in our country and in the world today.”

The Center's citizenship component was highlighted at the event with a naturalization ceremony under the direction of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, during which twelve immigrants from countries including Ecuador, Thailand, Haiti, Mexico, Turkey and India were sworn-in as new American citizens. **The Peopling of America® Center**, a \$20 million undertaking, continues the historic partnership between The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service. It will entail the redesign of one major existing gallery, the restoration of two historically important spaces to accommodate additional Center exhibits, and the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the New Immigration Building to house the museum's curator.

“The Foundation is gratified to once again work in partnership with the Park Service to tell the complete story of the populating of America, dramatically broadening and enhancing how the museum's millions of visitors from across the country and around the world will experience Ellis Island,” said Foundation President and
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ELLIS ISLAND UPGRADES

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CEO, Stephen A. Briganti. "I am pleased to announce that we are over 75% toward our fundraising goal, and work on the first phase of this highly anticipated expansion began on September 15th."

"We have designed **The Peopling of America® Center** to serve as a way for everyone who visits Ellis Island to personally connect with their family's immigration story," said Edwin Schlossberg, principal designer of ESI Design. The architectural and engineering work is being designed by Highland Associates. **The Peopling of America® Center** is expected to be completed in 2011. For further information visit <http://www.peoplingofamerica.org>.

Images of The Peopling of America® Center exhibits and captions are available online at: http://www.ellisland.org/Eiinfo/Press_Immigration_Museum_Story.asp.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 to raise funds for and oversee the historic restorations of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, working in partnership with the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition to restoring the monuments, the Foundation created a museum in the Statue's base and the world-class Ellis Island Immigration Museum, The American Immigrant Wall of Honor®, and the American Family Immigration History Center®. Its endowment has funded over 200 projects at the islands. For more information about the upgrades at Ellis Island, please contact: Elizabeth Oravetz at (212) 561-4542 or at eoravetz@ellisland.org.

NORTHLAND'S 40th ENDS

Join us to wrap up our 40th anniversary with a Taste of Holiday Wines with expert John Eld on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 P.M. The fee of \$5 is payable upon registration, but space is limited. Register at the upstairs reference desk.

NHG TUNED IN TO PITTSBURGH

On Sunday, 16 November 2008, the North Hills Genealogists were featured in a half-hour radio show that aired on channels 102.5 FM, 94.5 FM, 104.7 FM, and 105.9 FM in Pittsburgh. Amy E.K. Arner and Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, were interviewed and taped on 22 October by host Sean McDowell for the weekly Sunday morning broadcast at 7:00 A.M.

Amy and Elissa talked with McDowell about genealogy in general, as well as how to start one's research, the history of NHG, and our cemetery projects and cemetery preservation. Other highlights were McDowell promoting our NHG web site and announcements about our Round Table Discussion Meeting in November.

Congratulations to Amy and Elissa for a professional presentation, and thanks to WDVE-FM Radio for the great opportunity to discuss NHG and our passion for genealogy!

LOCAL WEB SITES OF INTEREST

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette recently published an article to outline the best methods for searching the Post-Gazette newspaper archives. For more details, check out this link: <http://www.post-gazette.com/08300/922720-28.stm>.

The Heinz History Center recently hosted a celebration of the life of George Westinghouse. The descendants of George Westinghouse and more information about this family history event can be found at: <http://www.pittsburghpost-gazette.com/pg/08315/926738-409.stm>.

The Akron-Summit County Public Library, Special Collections Division, holds monthly classes focused upon genealogical topics. Each class occurs on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 P.M. Classes are held at the library, 60 South High Street, Akron, OH, 44326 and information is available by calling (330) 643-9030 or going to: <http://www.akronlibrary.org>.

SEARCHING THE PA STATE ARCHIVES

Written by Sue Ennis

For a wealth of resources on one web site, visit <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us> and select the link "PA State Archives" in the left column. This site is valuable whether you are searching for twigs from your family tree or exploring the history of Pennsylvania. On the home page of the PA State Archives, researchers and family historians can access research guides on key words or specific topics, look through collections of papers and digital records and indexes, or find out how to visit the Archives for a research trip.

The PA State Archives was formed in 1903 as a branch of the State Library. Its primary goals are "to acquire, preserve, and make available for study, the historical public records of the Commonwealth." In addition, the PA State Archives collects private papers from families and historical organizations in the state.

Research hours at the PA State Archives, located at 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090, are from Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. for microfilm research only. Check the web site for closing dates around the holidays. Admission to the PA State Archives is free. No appointment is needed unless you want to use special collection papers.

The vast collections at the State Archives include 30,000 rolls of microfilm and 70,000 cubic feet of materials. State Land Records from 1667-2000 provide details about land purchases with many digital images. Transportation and Industrial Records are another interesting collection of artifacts, including many maps and photos. There are also collections of Ethnic and Minority Records such as the Underground Railroad, Genealogical Resources including military records, and the Special Media Collection of non-text materials. All can be accessed through the web site.

JOIN PA-ROOTS

Volunteers are needed for the PA-Roots Community to assist with both long-term and short-term projects. The mission of PA-Roots is "to create a premier source of free genealogical data from Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic states." By working to make data free and accessible to all researchers, PA-Roots volunteers can do their part to preserve the past.

The current project of PA-Roots is to build a free index for historical books and papers that appear on any of their web sites. Many PA county web sites are hosted by PA-Roots. When the index is completed, researchers will be able to search the nearly half-million records by date or name or location or any other key word.

Recent county sites added through PA-Roots include the PA counties of Beaver, Berks, Clinton, Fulton, Jefferson, Montgomery, Somerset, and Venango, as well as Ashland and Coschocton Counties in Ohio. For these and the other counties included, genealogists can access records for cemeteries, family surnames, tax lists, or even land records. Each county link is customized for whatever information has been donated about that county.

The most prominent materials that PA-Roots is interested in obtaining include obituaries, church records, funeral home records, transcriptions of cemeteries, especially small family plots, military records, newspapers, and any other additional source of genealogical information to be preserved for the future. Original documents are not required; scans or photocopies of documents and records are acceptable.

For more information, contact Nathan P. Zipfel, President and Director of Technology, at nate@pa-roots.net. You can also contact Carol C. Eddleman, Director of Data Acquisition, PA-Roots, at Bedford@pa-roots.net.

P.O. Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, 6 December 2008 ***NHG ANNUAL SOCIAL***

Tour the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library in Oakland with Marilyn Holt followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. This event is the perfect occasion to be introduced to a vast collection of research data close to home, as well as to socialize with others in our NHG group.

Tuesday, 20 January 2009 ***PLANNING A RESEARCH TRIP***

Speaker: Susan L. Ennis

Participate in a discussion about preparing to research in remote parts of Pennsylvania or other states more than a day from home. Sue Ennis will present helpful hints for saving time and money while researching your family history on the road and share methods for quickly adjusting to each repository you visit.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 18 November 2008 **ANNUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Speakers: NHG Members and Guests

Join the North Hills Genealogists for the annual Round Table Discussion meeting. This meeting is an opportunity for all members to exchange ideas for resolving problems in family history research. Everyone, whether a beginner or an experienced genealogist, can benefit from the round table!