



PROGRAM TOPICS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2009 NHG FALL CONFERENCE

The NHG Fall Conference, *Discover Your Roots: Discover Yourself – The Search for Lost Treasures* is planned for Saturday, 24 October 2009 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. NHG members and the general public are invited to this day-long family history program for all interest levels, featuring speakers Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, of Minnesota, and Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG, of Maryland.

The NHG Fall Conference will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237, near Northway Mall. Plan now for what sessions you will attend to gain the most from your conference experience. For more details and to register, go to this site: <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org>.

Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, will present the following sessions for the NHG Fall Conference:

Lord Preserve Us! Church Records for Family History Research - Names, dates, places of new and former residences, relationships, burial locations, and other details can be learned in the treasures of church and related records, which often pre-date civil vital records.

NUCMC and Its Cousins: Keys to “Lost” Ancestral Records – An important aid to finding diaries, circuit riders’ and business records is in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections via the Library of Congress and containing over 100,000 items.

Tho’ They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records – Our poorer relatives are traceable, and due to needing assistance may have left extremely helpful records.

A Baker’s Dozen: Easy Ways to Begin Writing Your Family History – Learn ways to get your family history in print without a lot of strain. It’s not as daunting a task as you might think, and your family will treasure it!

Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG, will present two sessions for the Fall Conference:

Jump the Pond: Tracing Immigrant Families Strategies for using U.S records to get back to one’s country of origin will be explained, using Canadian and Scottish examples.

Research in Washington, DC from Home – Learn how to access the wonderful treasures in the National Archives, Library of Congress, DAR Library, and other facilities from your home or in preparation for a trip.

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

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For information:

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

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

Here we are moving into the summer months again, the time of year when, among many other events, family reunions are typically held. The Williams' family reunion is traditionally held the first weekend in June in Erie, and this year was no exception. Once again, Florence Williams – the matriarch of our clan – was there. She will be ninety-nine years old later this year and spent most of the reunion grilling us about relatives that could not attend.

There were also some new attendees who provided some great adds to the family tree. One of them was a third cousin who lives in the state of Washington – Nyla Urch Dartt. She is a descendant of the oldest child – Jane Williams – of my great-great-grandparents. Jane Williams married Joshua Urch and, just to add to the confusion, her younger sister Ann married Joshua's brother James Urch. (As a side note, Jane's other sister married Thomas Carr, the brother of Eleanor Carr – who was married to their brother John Williams!)

Anyway, I had never met a descendant from either line of Urch's, so I was definitely excited about this gathering. Nyla had made contact with us about a year ago through the Internet. Capping a lot of correspondence, she decided to coordinate a trip to the East Coast to visit her daughter to coincide with the family reunion. Neither she nor her daughter had ever been in Erie before. It was a great visit! She brought along much of the results of her research over the years and a number of old photographs to flesh out her family. We went to the local cemetery and found the marker of her great-great-grandparents and various other ancestors. We exchanged tales of family lore and found that there were stumbling blocks that both of us had encountered.

Upon parting, we made the commitment to stay in touch and to continue to share research. Both Nyla and her daughter want to get back for the
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER
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future reunions, and we are hoping to find some other Urch's (and maybe Carr's) to add to the mix.

The drive home from Erie gave me the chance to reflect on the past two years. This will be my last column, as a new president will be taking over in August. I would like to thank everyone for allowing me the privilege of being your president for the last two terms. It was a very stimulating time and went by unbelievably fast. It was a great learning experience, and I would like to especially thank the A-Team Board of Directors who steer the North Hills Genealogists. The guidance and insight was extremely valuable, and I can guarantee that your organization is in good hands with that Board.

I would also like to wish the best of luck to the incoming officers. May your experience be every bit as rewarding as mine was.

Finally, I would like to also wish our readers the best of luck with your endeavors, and leave you with the following quote from Randy Pausch of *Last Lecture* fame. While he was not referring to genealogy, it seems appropriate and perhaps will help when you encounter some frustrating moments.

“The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They're there to stop the other people.”

Happy Hunting!

~ Dave

Newsletter Editor Needed for NHG

The North Hills Genealogists Board is looking for a volunteer to serve as the next NHG Newsletter Editor. You will create and edit ten newsletters from August, 2009 – June, 2010. There is no newsletter in December. For more details about this opportunity, contact Sue Ennis (724) 452-3176 or any NHG Board member by June 30th.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

by Amy E. K. Arner

At each meeting people can submit questions on index cards. Each month, we will answer one or two questions in the newsletter.

Question: Is there a source for death certificates before 1909 for Allegheny County?

Answer: Pennsylvania started requiring death certificates in 1906. The PA Department of Health's Division of Vital Records in New Castle holds the death certificates. Their web site has information on how to order certificates: <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=168&Q=202275>. There are some additional resources created at the local level. These resources consist of short entries in ledger books and so are death records, not death certificates. The following are available on microfiche in the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh:
City of Pittsburgh Death Registers (1870-1905)
Allegheny City Death Registers (1875-May 1907)
Allegheny County Death Registers (1874-1903)
McKeesport Death Registers (1887-1905)
Sewickley Death Registers (1894-1905)

Except for the Sewickley death registers, these records are also available on microfilm through the Family History Library.

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

TIPS FOR USING THE 1869 HUNGARIAN CENSUS

John Matviya will discuss a vital resource in June. Perhaps the most important tool in finding one's ancestors from Eastern European countries is the 1869 Hungarian Census. This census is not just about Hungarians and Slovaks; it is the most important and useful census records for people from much of the old Hungarian Empire including present-day Hungary, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Ukraine, Romania and other pre-1918 Hungary territories. The Compromise of 1867 established the dual-monarchy of Austria-Hungary, which in 1869 conducted the "First Complete Population Census of Hungary and Austria."

Although there had been many censuses taken by the Kingdom of Hungary of its subjects, prior to the emancipation of the peasants (1858) only the names of landowners were listed. The 1869 Census is of the greatest value to the genealogical researcher, as it required all residents to be enumerated and is the most comprehensive of all available census, including personal information about each family member and about their dwellings and livestock. The Census records, written sometimes in Hungarian or Latin or German, can be intimidating at first. This presentation will show how to interpret the information and use it to build your ancestors family tree.

John Matviya has been a family genealogist for more than 30 years, splitting his personal research between his mother's "English" ancestry and his father's "Slovak" side. Currently he is President of the Derry Area Historical Society in Westmoreland County where he also serves as Archivist/Genealogist. Having made three visits in the past ten years to his paternal grandparents' villages in Eastern Slovakia, John has partnered with renowned

Slovak researcher Lisa Alzo in publishing articles and making presentations about "finding" one's Slovak ancestors.

Mr. Matviya was born and raised on the North Side of Pittsburgh, is a 1973 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and prior to his retirement in 2007 was an environmental program manager for the PA Department of Environmental Protection. John and Chris, his wife of 35 years, have raised three children and live in New Alexandria, PA.

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES TO YOUR HOME: HISTORICAL MATERIALS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

The University of Pittsburgh Library System is a leader in providing access to digital resources. These include collections of rare books, manuscripts, prints, maps and photographs. Many of the materials available online, including census records, pertain to the history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. While students and faculty of the University benefit by these materials being online, so do countless genealogists, historians, and other researchers. This presentation will include an overview of the Archives and Special Collections Departments, while providing a more in-depth look at some of the recent work to create better access to little known historical materials, such as the Allegheny County Coroner Case Files, which date from 1887 to 1976.

Michael J. Dabrishus is a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He has a B.A. in history from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University, where he concentrated his studies in archival administration. His first professional position was as an archivist at the Texas State Archives, where his primary responsibilities centered on creating access to historical records and overseeing a very active research room that **(continued on page 95)**

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

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frequently included genealogists. In 1984, he accepted the appointment as Head of the Special Collections Division for the University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. Their manuscripts collections doubled in size during his time there. In August, 2002, he became Assistant University Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh. He has administrative oversight of the Archives, Special Collections, Preservation, Music Library, Fine Arts Library, Business Library, and Center for American Music, which houses the major collection of Stephen Foster materials. In addition to being a member of many professional library, archival, and historical associations, he is an appointed member of the Pennsylvania State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Tuesday, 18 August 2009

WRITING RESEARCH REPORTS

NHG member **Elissa Scalise Powell, CG**, will discuss methods for writing reports based upon your genealogical research. Collecting facts about your family's history is one project, but preparing to write up the results of your research is another project. Come in August to hear how to write about your genealogical finds!

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

17 JUNE 2009

7:00 P.M.

BEAVER CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The monthly meeting of the Beaver County Genealogical Society is Wednesday, 17 June 2009 at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive, Monaca, PA. NHG member Mary Dzurichko will present "Dating Photos." Everyone with an interest in genealogy or history is welcome! For more detailed information call (724) 847-9253, or go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs/>.

18-20 June 2009

2009 PALATINES CONFERENCE

Final plans for the 2009 National Palatines to America Conference have been completed. This year's conference, where you can "Research with the Experts," will be 18-20 June 2009 at the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Accommodations for this conference will be at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Ft. Wayne. To find out detailed information about the 2009 National Palatines to America Conference, go to the event's web site: <http://palamnationalconference.org/registration>.

Wednesday, 24 June 2009

CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

This month's meeting of the Cranberry Genealogy Club will be held on Wednesday, 24 June 2009 with the program to be announced. The Cranberry Genealogy Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month throughout the year in the Public Library Conference Room at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road. For more information, go to: <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>. All meetings are free and the public is invited.

20-31 JULY 2009

Moravian Archives Bethlehem, PA

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA is offering a two-week course in reading German script to be held 20-31 July 2009. The course fee is \$535.00 but does not include housing. The number of participants is limited to 15. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to read and transcribe 17th-20th century texts written in German script.

For information, go to their web site at: <http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/german-script.php>. You can also contact them at: The Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018, (610)866-3255 or at info@moravianchurcharchives.org.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

2-5 SEPTMEBER 2009 ANNUAL FGS CONFERENCE Little Rock, Arkansas

The annual Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference *Passages Through Time* will be held at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information, visit the site at <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php>.

There is also a conference blog with insight for first-time attendees on the web at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/>. This blog is maintained by FGS and offers weekly updates about the upcoming national conference, including specific program and session details.

27 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2009 2009 NGS FALL RESEARCH TRIP Salt Lake City, Utah

The National Genealogical Society has announced information about their annual research trip for genealogists to Salt Lake City, UT. The trip package includes consultations with the trip directors Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS, who are experienced researchers.

Accommodations are next door to the Family History Library and some meals are included. This research trip is limited to 30 attendees, so plan to register now if you are interested in this genealogical opportunity for the fall. For full details go to <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> or contact Shirley Wilcox at swilcox@juno.com.

LOCAL SPECIAL EVENT ROSS TOWNSHIP BI-CENTENNIAL Friday, 26 June – Thursday, 2 July

The Ross Township (PA) Historical Society proudly announces the theme “A Community of

to celebrate 200 years of innovation and history from Friday, 26 June through Sunday 5 July 2009. The public is invited to come and join in the week-long celebration of events involving the entire community. “Celebrate our history, enjoy our present, and imagine our future during the party,” is the slogan for the celebration.

The Ross Township Historical Society is also pleased to announce that the 2009 Bi-Centennial History Book is now available for sale at a cost of \$10.00 per book. These books can be purchased at the Ross Township Municipal Building, Northland Library, and at several other local businesses: North Hills Printing, 982 Perry Highway, Perrysville; The Medicine Shoppe in Perrysville; and The Blue Wave Auto Spa, 4560 McKnight Road.

Some of the highlights of the week’s events include the 12th Annual Free Fishing Tournament on June 27th and 28th; A Historic Presentation at Evergreen Park on Evergreen Road at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, June 29th; and at 7:00 P.M on Tuesday, June 30th, the public is invited to “Share Your Ross Township Memories.” On Thursday, July 2nd, a program about the Harmony Shortline’s History and The Biddle Boys will begin at 7:00 P.M.

For detailed and up-to-date information about the Ross Township Bi-Centennial events, go to their web site at: <http://www.ross.pa.us>. Individuals should pre-register on the web site or at the Ross Township Municipal Building for all events.

NHG REMINDERS FOR MEMBERS

DEADLINE TO ELECT 2009-2010 NHG OFFICERS

BALLOTS FOR THE NHG OFFICER ELECTIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT AND POSTMARKED BY JUNE 30th. ADDRESS CORRECTION FROM THE MAY NEWSLETTER - SEND BALLOTS TO NHG, P.O. BOX 304, INGOMAR, PA 15127.

OGS Summer Workshop

Sunday – Friday, 21-26 June 2009

OGS Headquarters and Library

713 S. Main Street, Mansfield, OH 44907

The Ohio Genealogical Society's Summer Workshop returns with a diverse line-up of programs of interest to genealogists. Speakers for each session are listed on the web site. Information is provided below with more available at <http://www.ogs.org>.

Sunday

7:00 Welcome Reception-Tour of OGS Library

Monday

9:30 Doing Effective Genealogical Research in Libraries

10:45 Using PERSI

1:00 Cluster Genealogy

2:15 Military Records

3:30 Pain in the Access:” Getting More from the Internet for Your Genealogy

4:30 – 8:30 Research at the OGS Library

7:00 Using World Cat

Tuesday

9:30 Using Government Documents for Genealogical Research

10:45 All That Other STUFF!: Other Census Records Beyond the Population Schedules

1:00 Using Land Records to Find Your Ancestors Part I

2:15 Using Land Records to Find Your Ancestors Part II

3:30 Occupational Records

4:30-8:30 Research in the OGS Library

6:00-8:00 Computer Genealogy Advice - MAGIC local computer genealogy group

Wednesday

9:30 Migration Trails

10:45 Up in Smoke! What to Do When the Courthouse Burns

1:00 Paternal Line DNA Studies: Fracturing Genealogical Brick Walls

2:15 Maternal Line DNA Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Establishing DNA Surname Project

3:30 Using Vital Records to Their Full Advantage

5:30 Roundtable Dinner and Speaker*(Included in weekly registration; \$10 for one-day or other guests; pre-registration required.)

7:00 Problem Solving Roundtable

4:30-8:30 Research in the OGS Library

Thursday

9:30 There's Gold in Them Thar Hills

10:45 Homespun and Calico

1:00 Did Your Ancestor Go West?

2:15 Preserving Your Genealogy

3:30 Preparing for a Research Trip

Evening Activity Choices

4:30-8:30 Research in the OGS Library

7:00 Richland County Chapter OGS Meeting, OGS Library, Shirley Hodges, Speaker

Friday

9:30 Using Ancestry.com

10:45 Understanding Lineage Society Applications

11:45-3:00 Schedule one-on-one help for your research problem or your lineage society application

11:45 – 3:00 Open discussion on free genealogy websites; Research in the OGS Library

Daily 11:45-1:00 Lunch – on your own; fifteen - minute break after each session. For those wishing to pre-register for the Monday dinner or the Wednesday dinner, please notify OGS (or Great Lakes APG - for Monday only) by these deadlines: Monday dinner deadline is Friday, 20 June. Wednesday dinner deadline is Monday, 23 June.

Workshop Prices - Wednesday Evening supper is included only in the week-long price. Others must pay to attend. Week-long Workshop: OGS Members: \$265, Non-Members: \$295. Single Day Registration OGS Members: \$60, Non-Members: \$65. Wednesday Dinner (included in week-long price) \$10. Special rates (breakfast included) will be available at the LaQuinta Inn, 120, Stander Avenue (I-71 & SR 13), Mansfield, Ohio 44903, Phone (419) 774-0005.

RENEWAL FORM for 2009-2010 MEMBERSHIP in THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS – 20th YEAR!

The annual membership year for the North Hills Genealogists begins August 1 and ends July 31. The cost of membership is \$15.00 per year, which includes ten issues of the *NHG Newsletter*. Remember: if you receive your *NHG Newsletter* by email you will get the monthly issue BEFORE that month's regular meeting. If you choose to receive your newsletter by regular mail, the current issue will be mailed to you AFTER the regular monthly meeting. A discounted rate for the NHG Fall Conference is another benefit of renewing your membership or joining now for 2009-2010!

Please fill out the form below, and enclose a check for \$15.00 made out to **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**. Turn in your form and payment at a meeting, or mail your membership renewal by August 1, 2009 to: *North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127*. For your convenience you may charge your renewal at our website: <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org/>.

NAME (please print) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Indicate your preference for receiving your NHG Newsletter each month - check one box below.

By regular mail _____

By E-mail _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

*** PLEASE LIST SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING:**

*** QUERIES** (Members of the North Hills Genealogists may submit research-related queries for inclusion in a future newsletter.)



P.O. Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES TO YOUR HOME: HISTORICAL MATERIALS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Speaker: Michael J. Dabrishus

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Tuesday, 18 August 2009

WRITING RESEARCH REPORTS

Speaker: Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

This presentation will provide methods and ideas for publishing one's family history. NHG member Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, will discuss methods for writing reports based upon your research. Collecting facts about your family's history is one project, but preparing to write up the results of your research is another project. Come in August to hear how to write efficiently, to leave a legacy, and to help direct your research!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 16 June 2009 **USING THE 1869 HUNGARIAN CENSUS**

Speaker: John Matviya

Perhaps the most important tool in finding one's ancestors from Eastern European countries is the 1869 Hungarian Census. This census is not just about Hungarians and Slovaks; it is the most important and useful census record from much of the old Hungarian Empire. Avid genealogist and Pittsburgh native John Matviya will discuss this census in detail and explain ways to extract useful information.

