

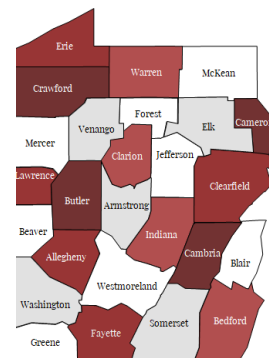


Jots from Western Pennsylvania

The newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

Winner of the 2023 National Genealogical Society's
Newsletter Award For A Large Society

March-April, 2025, Volume 51, Number 5



A Message from the President

On February 23, 2025, WPGS and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh held another fantastic Genealogy Day, featuring presentations and genealogical societies and libraries across the region. I am so grateful for the relationship between WPGS and the CLP's Family & Local History Department and that we can help host this fun and informative day.

Genealogy Day also included brick wall sessions. These sessions filled up almost immediately, evidence of the universal frustration all genealogists face at one time or another. I participated in two sessions with very different situations.

So, what qualifies as a "brick wall?" A brick wall is a seemingly insurmountable roadblock that halts research progress. It could be an ancestor who appeared (or disappeared) without any further records, an unknown maiden name, or conflicting information that you just can't resolve.

Here are some strategies to help break through those barriers:

1. **Review What You Know (or what you think you know).** Take a fresh look at your research. What information do you know about that ancestor? Where did the information come from? How reliable is it? I'm sure we all have examples of when we researched in the wrong location or family line because the starting point of information was faulty.
2. **Create a clear research question and identify what types of sources may help you answer that question.** If you can't find a birth, marriage, or death record, or if the record doesn't exist for the time and place, get creative. Look for alternative sources such as church records, newspaper announcements or obituaries, military service records, probate files, land, and tax records. For example, if you see a man move from "inmate" status in one tax year to the regular tax list the next, that is evidence he married within that year.
3. **Expand Your Search Beyond Direct Lines.** When records for a direct ancestor are scarce, research extended family, friends, and neighbors, as they can provide clues that may lead to missing information about your ancestor.
4. **Get a Fresh Perspective.** Ask someone else to review your research or give advice on the availability of records you may be unfamiliar with. Numerous Facebook groups dedicated to

genealogy, including the WPGS Facebook group, may be great places to ask for this type of assistance.

Spring is right around the corner, and now is a great time to refresh your genealogy research. Dust off those old notes, revisit past research questions, and explore new resources—you may uncover the missing piece you've been searching for and break through your brick wall!

Megan Clark Young
President, 2024–2025



WPGS 2025 Scholarship

<https://wpqs.org/about-page/scholarship/>

WPGS awards the Suzanne Johnston Memorial Scholarship, an award of up to \$250 to a current WPGS member to assist with the cost of attendance at a local, regional, national, or virtual genealogy conference. We are pleased to announce that Kaitlyn Pauley is the 2025 winner.

Kaitlyn will attend GRIP in July, taking "Mining and Extraction: Building Skills with the Coal Industry." Kaitlyn lives in coal country in West Virginia, and this class will help her understand the records available for those in the coal industry while improving methodology. "The topic is close to my heart as my husband's family has a proud history of coal mining, and it will provide me the opportunity to learn more about his family as well as supplement the life stories of those I professionally research for in West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and beyond." Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

2025-2026 Nominating Committee

Elections for the 2025-2026 Board of Directors will occur in June 2025. Would you consider taking a seat as a 2025-2027 Director? Eight Board meetings are scheduled for August to November and March to June. The WPGS committee report on their recent activity and new Society activities and programs is reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Board members. We will also seek a President-Elect candidate who will assume office in the 2026-2027 membership year. Board members need not be local.

If you would like to offer your name for consideration, please email the Nominating Committee at nominating@wpqs.org.



About WPGS

Mission Statement: The **Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (WPGS)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of amateur and professional

family historians and genealogists dedicated to the study and preservation of family history. WPGS was founded in 1974 to perpetuate the rich heritage of Western Pennsylvania's 26 counties.

The Society strives to foster an interest in genealogy through meetings, workshops, record examinations, and study sources and methods of genealogical lines. WPGS collects, preserves, and safeguards manuscripts, books, artifacts, family, church, and public records, as well as other materials relating to genealogy, and it encourages others to do likewise. Society members increase genealogical resources in the Western Pennsylvania region by compiling and publishing original research.

President: Megan Clark Young	Director 2023-25: Amy Welch
President-Elect: Lindsay Downs	Director 2023-25: Lois Salvatora
(President in 2025-2026)	Director 2023-25: Kristin Brittanik
Recording Secretary: Vacant	Director 2024-26: Pamela Israel
Treasurer: David Salvatora	Director 2024-26: Rebecca Miller
Corres. Secretary: Kelsea Collins	Director 2024-26: Robert Hague

The Society's operational year begins on July 1 and continues through June 30 of the following year. During this time, the Society publishes six issues of the award-winning newsletter *Jots from Western Pennsylvania*® and periodic issues of the *Quarterly* journal. WPGS is based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and maintains a non-circulating library and offices in the Local History and Genealogy Department (LHGD) on the third floor of the Main Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The WPGS Library Collection is augmented by the LHGD's vast holdings of information on local and family history. There are extensive onsite resources for both in-library research and out-of-town queries.

WPGS considers your data (name, address, email, phone, etc.) highly confidential and will not release it to any merchant, agent, or other organization under any circumstances.

For details on Society membership or general information, see the Society's webpage at www.wpgs.org or contact WPGS at:

4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4007

Voicemail: 412-687-6811

General Information: info@wpgs.org

General Correspondence: corresec@wpgs.org

Research Services: research@wpgs.org

Website/Login Questions: website@wpgs.org

WPGS Quarterly®: Quarterly@wpgs.org

Jots from Western Pennsylvania®: Jots@wpgs.org

Facebook Group: [facebook@wpgs.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1024613077636340)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1024613077636340>

Contributions to the *Jots*, *Quarterly*, and Facebook Group are encouraged. Contributors must provide attribution/contact details for submissions before publication. We will not publish copyrighted material without the express permission of the author/owner.

All suggestions for future issues of the *Jots* or *Quarterly* can be sent to the addresses listed above. Deadlines for receipt of submissions to *Jots* are the 10th of June, August, October, December, February, and April, unless extended. The *Quarterly* deadlines are published on the WPGS website and in the *Jots*.

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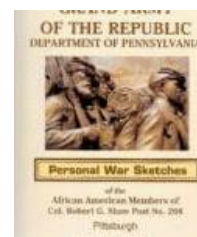
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SOCIETY NEWS

Book Sales

Rebecca Kichta Miller, Chairperson,
booksales@wpgs.org

Currently, 240 used books, 20 printed publications, and 24 digital downloads are available online. Go to <https://wpgs.org/product-category/book-sales/> for complete descriptions and pricing of these volumes.



By the end of this membership year, we hope to have every publication, past and present, available for digital download for a reasonable fee. Many publications will remain available in print.

Donations to the WPGS Library collection are periodically assessed, and decisions are made about beneficial books. Other contributions not relevant to Western Pennsylvania research or already in our collections are added to the online bookstore. If you have any books you would like to donate, whether from your library or ones you inherited, please send booksales@wpgs.org a list of those books. We will decide based on that list and contact you then.

Jots from Western Pennsylvania

Rebecca Kichta Miller, Chairperson, jots@wpgs.org
Susan Rogers, Judy Robertson, and Jay Shock, Editors

The January-February *Jots* were delivered via USPS to 337 members and emailed to 492. The February Mid-Issue was delivered on January 31 to 493 member accounts.

If you have a genealogy/history-related announcement, such as a meeting, workshop, publication, or family reunion information, please send it to jots@wpgs.org, and we'll post it.

Are you interested in helping compile upcoming newsletters? Email jots@wpgs.org for details. All work on this newsletter can be done virtually, from research to writing, printing, and mailing. Don't hesitate to consider assisting with the production.

WPGS Digital Archives

WPGS has been archiving records since 1985 and began microfilming in 1989. Please see the contacts listed here for information on how to help with our continuing efforts. Some can be done online at home; others require coming into the office.

ARCHIVES RETRIEVAL AND PRESERVATION

Pamela Israel, Chairperson, archives@wpgs.org

Find out how to help with upcoming projects by contacting Pamela Israel at the email address above.

DIGITIZING

Kathy Kenna, digitize@wpgs.org



The WPGS Digitizing Committee is looking for volunteers to digitize material. The position involves scanning old records and editing the images. The volunteer will be trained on our equipment in the WPGS office at the Carnegie Library, Main

Branch, on the third floor. If interested, please get in touch with Kathy Kenna at kkinplum@aol.com.

If you know of an organization with a collection of records it no longer wants to store but would be willing to have digitized and added to our collection, don't hesitate to contact Kathy Kenna with details.

INDEXING

Nancy Marsh, Indexing Chairperson, indexing@wpgs.org

Thank you to Betsy Morris and Chuck Grubbs for volunteering to index church records. Betsy has been indexing The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. Chuck will work on First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh (Shadyside), Allegheny County.

If you have any questions about indexing the digitized online records or would like to volunteer to help remotely, don't hesitate to get in touch with Nancy Marsh. This rewarding project is fully *Work-at-Your-Own-Pace*.

Library Research Services

Lois Salvatora, Chairperson, research@wpgs.org

The Library Research volunteers continue to work on the library inventory and index the family files in the office. Additionally, research requests were recently fulfilled for the following:

- 1 request for our approved private researchers list.
- 1 General Research request in progress
- 1 naturalization completed

Volunteers can search microfilms for ancestors through the Research Services module for the Index Look-Up service. Please continue to check the catalog and the resource files that interest you.

If you need help, email research@wpgs.org.

FFWPA Lineage Society

Megan Clark Young, Chairperson, firstfamilies@wpgs.org
David Egelston and Trish Buben, Committee Members

Do you have an ancestor who resided in Western Pennsylvania before the end of 1810? Consider applying to the First Families of Western Pennsylvania to honor your pioneer ancestor. The application and Rules of Evidence are available on the website, and WPGS members can search for previously approved ancestors in the Members Only section of the WPGS website: www.wpgs.org. Contact Megan Clark Young, chair of the First Families of Western Pennsylvania Lineage Society, with any questions at firstfamilies@wpgs.org

WPGS Library Collection

Library Chairperson (vacant) library@wpgs.org

The WPGS Library is a non-circulating collection of freely available materials to aid genealogical and Western Pennsylvania research. The library is housed in the Family & Local History Department (3rd floor) of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Main, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh.

The library is open 9:30 AM-8:00 PM Monday through Thursday and 9:30 AM-5:00 PM Friday through Sunday. The collection includes hardcover books, paperback publications, and microfilm, as well as uncatalogued collections like the Family Surname File, First Families of Western Pennsylvania (FFWP) Records, Journals and Newsletter Collection, Member Ancestor Charts, Public Surname Book, Research Services, and Uncatalogued Microfilm.

The bookcase beside the WPGS Help Desk holds several large white binders with miscellaneous church information. These are not actual church records but may help locate churches when and where your ancestors worshiped. Items may include brief histories written by the church, anniversary celebration brochures, or newspaper articles. Each binder has a table of contents at the front. The material is organized by geographic area (Pa. or out-of-state) and then by denomination. Additional notes on specific congregations may be available in vertical files in the WPGS office upon request.

Membership News

Lois Salvatora, Chairperson

Nancy Marsh, Kristin Britanik, Committee Members.

We welcome all new members who have joined WPGS in the last few months. We hope you will find all of your WPGS member benefits helpful to your family history research goals.

Welcome New Members

We welcome all new members who have joined WPGS since August 15, 2024. We hope you will find all of your WPGS member benefits helpful to your family history research goals.

Alabama Mark Reed	Ohio Gloria Charlier Christina Drain Roxanne Kramer Lauren Kuntzman Mark Marchok Linda Roberts
Arizona <u>Joan Cindrich</u> Laurie Stevens	Pennsylvania Michele Baum Larry Boustead Charles Boyer Jennifer Dimino Michael Eckert Scott Justus Donald Lancaster Marissa Mark Sandra Mihok Sharon Mlodoch Jeffrey Norris Margie Rennick Deborah Shugerts Anthony Zupanchick
California Donna Koutsakos Dorothy Laird * Karen Pestana Melanie Proctor	South Carolina Denise Chesson
Colorado Michael Wilson	Tennessee Elaine Kreil Shannon Neal
Connecticut Mark Dollhopf	Texas Leah Hoy*
Florida Lynn Siegel Dianna Voss	Virginia Michael French Julie Kelly Paula Lauerma Michael Schwartz
Georgia Thomas Meyer	Washington Jeff Carter Beth Nauman-Montana
Illinois David Melsheimer Thomas Troutwine	Wisconsin Nancy MacKenzie
Louisiana Christine Johnbrier *	
Massachusetts Suzanne Teuteberg	
Michigan Dennis Green	
Nebraska Dr. Susan L. Moran	
Nevada Susie McFarland	
New York Michael McKenna	
North Carolina Rebecca Bush Cherish Carlson Kathleen Kingsbury	

* reinstated member

CURRENT ACTIVE WPGS MEMBERSHIPS As of February 15, 2025	
Membership Type	Active
Individual	680
Joint	66
Institutional	10
Honorary	6
Total Active Memberships	762
New Memberships Since March 1, 2024	125

To submit questions or comments, contact membership@wpgs.org.

WPGS Website

Kristin Britanik, Chairperson, website@wpgs.org

A current maintenance project concerns the digitized church records on our "Members Only" section of the website. Some of these records are difficult to search: some files have targets only, some are incorrectly labeled, and some are missing on the website. We will begin working to correct and rename the files, comparing them with the original microfilm. Watch for a significant update in the coming months.

WPGS Sponsored Programs

Amy Welch, Chairperson, and Kelsea Collins, Co-Chair
programs@wpgs.org

Watch for upcoming program listings on the WPGS website.

WPGS Help Wanted

LIBRARY CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Do you love genealogy and books? Do you have librarian expertise? We currently need a Chairperson for the Library Committee. The duties and responsibilities include identifying items acquired through purchase or donation, reviewing and deciding how they will be housed, shelved, cataloged, and available in the non-circulating WPGS Library, and reviewing and updating the catalog.

WPGS Quarterly

A collection of scholarly articles related to Western Pennsylvania genealogy.
Erica Curtis, Editor, Quarterly@wpgs.org

The Quarterly Committee is preparing a publication for our spring edition. The committee is committed to publishing submissions that meet genealogical standards as outlined in *Genealogy Standards Second Edition Revised*. We publish digitized articles on a rolling basis and combine articles once yearly for print publication. The WPGS Quarterly currently accepts two types of articles: case studies and family narratives. Please review our Guideline for Submission at <https://wpgs.org/research/quarterlies/quarterly-indexes/>. We welcome your submissions for publication!

WPGS Private Facebook Group

Administrators: Lindsay Downs and Pamela Israel
facebook@wpgs.org

See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1024613077636340>

As of February 15, the WPGS Facebook Group has nearly 5,000 members. Our private group has featured a "road trip" through the 26 counties of Western Pennsylvania, starting in Allegheny County. Group members check in daily for a county-by-county roll call and share their family history gems!

Also, Thursdays are "Throwback Thursdays," and everyone is encouraged to share a family portrait of their ancestors. If you would like to post a family photo, please provide the details of your ancestors (names and locations especially). Recent examples:

Kristen Pohl Spangler. My Grandfather's older siblings, Fred Wilson and Helen Wilson, were born in 1896. New Castle, Lawrence, Pennsylvania. | My great-grandmother, Mary Olive McWilliams Wilson, was born in 1872 in Mt. Jackson, Lawrence, Pennsylvania.

Jay Crawford. My grandmother Alice Beal Crawford (middle), Mildred Beal McBurney (left), and Howard Beal (right) approximately 1912, Uniontown, PA

Ted Perchinske. My great grandfather, Edward Strohmeier, and my great grandmother, Barbara Shurf, from Altoona, Pa. Below are their children's names in the photo:

Top Row: Edward Strohmeier and Anna Strohmeier (parents), Thomas (Walter) b.1908, Raymond b. 1909, Clement b. 1911

Second Row: Virgil b. 1921, Dorothy b. 1919, Hilda b. 1920, Ira b. 1916, Edward b. 1915, Coletta b. 1912

Bottom Row: Geraldine b. 1922, Martha b. 1924, Paul b. 1924, Florence b. 1926, Regis b. 1929

Below are some examples of other recent Facebook postings.

Submitted by Dave Sherry on January 31: I was excited to learn that the records for a third of the parishes of the Diocese of Würzburg are now available at <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/deutschland/wuerzburg/> with the rest of the parishes to be added by the end of 2026. German parish records at the Diocese of Pittsburgh helped me find my ancestors' hometown. Hopefully, they will join in making their records available online at some point, too. Response by William Dristas: Which church did they attend in Pittsburgh? The diocese just gave me great information about my 3x great-grandparents. They attended Saint Philomena's Church, which used to be in the Strip District. The church and parish no longer exist. Response from Dave Sherry: St. Philomena was the mother church of all the German parishes. Almost all of my family's records were from St. Michael on the Southside.

Submitted by Debbie Reichert Wetlaufer on: I have Calvin MORLEY, who lived in Somerset starting about the 1830s as a transplant from Chenango County, NY. He was a blacksmith and later moved just over the mountain to Westmoreland County. He married Elizabeth BLAINE, daughter of Robert BLAINE from Somerset. Two

of their sons, Leander and Isaac, fought with a U.S. Westmorland unit during the Civil War. Sadly, Isaac died at Spotsylvania. Leander survived the war, returned home, and married, but died two years later from the dysentery he picked up as a Civil War prisoner. I've done a pretty thorough job of tracing the Morley family, but I'd love to learn more about the BLAINE family!!

If anyone can help with these requests or any other postings, you can join the WPGS Facebook group and respond to the postings.

Upcoming Genealogical Events

PLEASE CHECK DIRECTLY WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS FOR ANY IN-PERSON EVENT UPDATES AND CANCELLATIONS.

(F) Free | (\$) Fee Required | (L) Live | (V) Virtual | (L/V) Live and Virtual | All times are EST unless otherwise noted.

(F) (L) March 1, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Hill District Carnegie Library**, 2177 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(\$/V) (L/V) March 6-8, 2025: Registration for **RootsTech 2025** is now open! RootsTech 2025 will be held live in Salt Lake City, Utah, and online at RootsTech.org. Select content will be available in multiple languages. Register or learn more now at RootsTech.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/newsroom/rootstech-2025-registration-now-open>

(F) (L) March 8, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the West End Carnegie Library**, 47 Wabash Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F/\$) (L) March 12, 7:00 PM: **The Real Joseph Johns**, a lecture presented by Jim Hostetler for the Cambria County Historical Society at the Masonic Temple. More info [here](#).

(F) (L) March 15, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Knoxville Carnegie Library**, 400 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F) (L/V) March 17, 7:00 PM: **Sanborn Maps** presented by Rick Sayre for Genealogists. Click [HERE](#) to register to attend Christ Episcopal Church in person. Register for this meeting via Zoom [HERE](#).

(\$) (L) March 21 and 22: **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania In-Person Event**. GSP Member Archive Tours and AI Genealogy: The Basics and a Bit Beyond by Seve Little. Register [here](#).

(F) (L) March 22, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Homewood Carnegie Library**, 7101 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F) (L) March 29, 2025: **Family History Jamboree** presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Dayton, Ohio, at 901 East Whipp Road, Centerville, OH. Five 60-minute class periods and a one-hour lunch break. A raffle drawing will be at 4:00 PM for an Ancestry DNA Kit and a World Explorer Membership donation by Ancestry.com. Raffle tickets are issued at check-in. Deadline to register: March 28th, 2025. For details, see fhj1.org/general-info/

(F/\$) (L) April 2, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM: **Titusville Genealogy Conference** presented by the Titusville Historical Society, 201 West Spring Street, Titusville, PA. Details [here](#).

(S) (V) April 2-5: **Celtic Connections 2025** - Save the Date! The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) will present the online event. This one-day virtual conference features experts on Celtic genealogy. Live speakers are available for live Q&A. For details, see www.tiara.ie

(F) (L) April 5, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Beechview Carnegie Library**, 1910 Broadway Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F/\$) (L) April 9, 7:00 PM: **The Reilly Mine Disaster**, a lecture by Judy Voytko for the Cambria County Historical Society at the EGB Boro Building. More info [here](#).

(F) (L/V) April 11-12: **2025 Civil War Symposium** “Our Battle Flags Were Tattered...The Maryland Campaign: A Civil War Symposium” at the Lincoln Gallery at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106. Tickets are selling fast for an incredible weekend of Civil War history at our Civil War Symposium, featuring eight dynamic historians, a live podcast recording, author signings, an expansive book sale, raffles, Espy Post tours, and tastings from Arsenal Cider. Details and ticket information [are here](#).

(F) (L) April 12, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Hazelwood Carnegie Library**, 5006 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F) (L) April 19, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: **New Castle Public Library Genealogy Club**. The New Castle Public Library genealogy division is thrilled to begin a Genealogy Club, which will meet on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00. Mark your calendars for upcoming meetings at 207 E. North St., New Castle, PA 16101. For details, see www.ncdlc.org/

(S) (L) April 20 – May 2: **Light Up Your Genealogy**, presented by the Ohio Genealogical Society at the Kalahari Resort & Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio. Details will be updated as they become available, or see the website! For details, see www.ogs.org/2025-conference/.

(F) (L) April 5, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Beechview Carnegie Library**, 1910 Broadway Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a

portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F) (L) April 23, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Allegheny Carnegie Library**, 1230 Federal Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(F) (L) April 26, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: **Community Scan Day at the Downtown Carnegie Library**, 612 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Scan your old photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items. Free and open to the public. [Details](#).

(S) (Online only) April 30: **Researching Scottish Ancestors** with David Allen Lambert, Melanie McComb, and Rhonda R. McClure for American Ancestors. Scots have been migrating to and settling in America and Canada for centuries. This four-session online seminar will provide key historical context, strategies, and resources, setting you on the right path to trace your ancestry back several generations in Scotland. [Register here](#).

(F/\$) (L) May 14, 7:00 PM: **Local Murders & Mysteries**, a lecture by Dr. Jennifer Gmuca, presented for the Cambria County Historical Society at the EGB Boro Building. More info [here](#).

(F) (L) April 19, 2:00 – 3:00 PM: **New Castle Public Library Genealogy Club**. at 207 E. North St., New Castle, PA 16101. For details, see www.ncdlc.org/

(S) (L/V) May 23-25: NGS 2025 Family History Conference **Tales & Trails**, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, presented by the National Genealogical Society. Save the date! Watch the website for details as they become available. The Conference will primarily be in-person, with lecture recordings available to paid registrants. For details, see www.ngsgenealogy.org/.

(S) (L) June 13-15: **Ohio International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) Conference 2025**, Columbus, Ohio. Watch the website for details as they become available. For details, see <https://iggp.org/2024/01/iggp-conference-2025-columbus-ohio/>.

(S) (L) August 10-14: **45th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) 2025 Conference**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, presented by IAJGS and Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogical Society (JGS). SAVE THE DATE. For details, see <https://neindianaajgs.org/iajgs-2025/>.

(S) (Online only) Tuesdays from June 3 to July 1, 1:00 – 3:30 PM: **17th Century English Research**, a seminar to be presented by Else Churchill of the Society of Genealogists, London for American Ancestors. This course includes five 90-minute classes, exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation, and in-depth Q&A sessions with the instructor. [Register here](#).

(F/\$) (L) June 4, 7:00 PM: A lecture on the book **Charles M. Schwab, President of Carnegie Steel, U.S. Steel, and Bethlehem Steel**, for the Cambria County Historical Society at the EGB Boro Building. More info [here](#).

(F) (L) July 14, 2025: Save the date. WPGS is sponsoring an evening program at GRIP—details to follow.

Genealogy Education

FamilySearch Library Free Classes and Webinars. Class Schedule for the FamilySearch Webinar Library.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars.

Legacy Family Tree Webinar Calendar. Registration is free for upcoming live webinars at <https://familytreewebinars.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024WebinarsSchedule.pdf>. To access previous webinars, you need a membership. Registration is at <https://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/legacy-family-tree-webinars-yearly-membership-p1.php>.

National Genealogical Society. You choose the best way to learn: reading, audio recordings, video recordings, in-person lectures, conferences, online courses with or without grading, case studies, and more. <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/learning-center/> and/or <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/family-history-skills-start-your-course/>

RootsMOOC: A Free Online Course in Genealogy. RootsMOOC, a free, open, online course, is a friendly introduction to family history research in the United States using commonly available sources. The expert staff at the State Library of North Carolina will help you learn about the most valuable sources, tools, and techniques for getting your research off the ground and properly organized. <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/programs-services/family-history-genealogy/rootsmooc-free-online-course-genealogy>

MyHeritage Introduction to Genealogy Course. In this free online course, each lesson will provide a step-by-step walkthrough of different topics in the world of genealogy. <https://education.myheritage.com/courses/genealogy-for-beginners/>

Family Search Learning Center. This page will give you all the current classes found in the Learning Center. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center

US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The records in our holdings most commonly used by genealogists include Census, Military, Immigration (Ship Passenger Lists), Naturalization, and Land records. To learn more about these records and how to access them, see the PowerPoint presentation, *Beginning your Genealogical Research at the National Archives and Records Administration*, which provides an excellent introduction to NARA's most popular genealogical records.

UK National Archives Family History. From army musters to medieval record research, the UK National Archives has many media offerings for genealogists, and they're all free and easy to access right on their website. Like FamilySearch, the courses are video-based and do not include activities or quizzes. <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/family-history/>

YouTube. You might be surprised by how many online tutorials, courses, and quick tips on family history can be found on YouTube. Whether you're looking for help conducting German genealogy or need some family history basics, this is a great place to start –

especially if you're looking for free options.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=genealogy+how-to

Ancestral Findings.com This site provides free genealogy lookups, a podcast (on YouTube or iTunes), book giveaways, free genealogy eBooks, newsletters, and support. Recent stories include *Hidden Genealogy Clues in Your Home: Unlocking the Stories of Your Ancestors* and *Genealogy Myths Debunked*.

Family History Daily Newsletter. This free newsletter offers excellent checklists to help with your family history research. A recent checklist, *10 Things You Should Know About Every Ancestor In Your Tree*, provides checkboxes to record the research progress of individuals in your tree. Download as many copies as you need and find more forms, helpers, and worksheets in our online courses and digital workbook.

Smithsonian Libraries. This guide identifies a select list of digital collections, subscriptions, and print and online resources related to American biography, family history, genealogy, and local history. Contact askaGenealogist@si.edu with suggestions for additional resources or with questions.

North Hills Genealogists Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Although the North Hills Genealogists' motto is "Bringing the World of Genealogy to Pittsburgh's North Hills," they offer programs and amenities to their members and the general public. In addition to their monthly meetings, which are open to the public, they coordinate projects, such as reading and publishing cemetery records and helping Boy Scouts with their Eagle Scout projects.

Additionally, they have formed Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to provide an additional education opportunity for members. Each SIG focuses on a particular topic—an ethnic group, a state, a type of record, et cetera. Each of the SIGs can be contacted via the email shown below and on their individual website page listing. The SIGs are an excellent way to work in a small-group setting on specific aspects of your research and benefit from the experiences of others involved in working with similar records and idiosyncrasies.

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR NHG SIGS:

Tech SIG	TechSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
DNA SIG	DNASIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
German SIG	GermanSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
Eastern European SIG	EasternEuropeSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
Pennsylvania Research SIG	PennsylvaniaSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
Writing SIG - currently paused	WritingSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
British Isles SIG	BritishSIG@NorthHillsGenealogists.org
Book Club SIG	Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

Information on NHG and membership can be found here.

My Stories.com

The well-known genealogy subscription company MyHeritage has just announced that they're launching a new service to make collecting and printing family stories more manageable and enjoyable. This new MyStories service makes publishing a memoir as simple as sending an email. MyStories provides an easy-to-use system for collecting memories and photos over a year and then compiling the information to create an attractively printed memory book to keep or share. MyHeritage provides weekly interview questions, so the interviewee will always have a clear prompt to work from.



Unique but relatable questions such as "When you think of the word 'home,' what place comes to mind?" or "What's a place you've visited that took your breath away?" provide the perfect foundation to inspire someone to write down their memories.

MyStories works by sending a selected individual an inspiring weekly email with a question to answer about their life. The individual, whether you or someone else, responds to the email with a story and images they would like to include. When the interviewee completes the questions and gives the go-ahead, a hardcover memoir containing their responses and attached photos is printed for them.

Those who use MyStories can also access an online account to answer or edit responses and upload images that complement these stories. You may order the service for yourself or give it as a gift to another person. The finished memoirs are easy to share since multiple printed copies can be ordered.



The price of MyStories from MyHeritage is \$99. This includes 52 weekly emailed questions, one year of access to the online account for adding stories and uploading pictures, and your printed book.

If given as a gift, you will

pay \$99 once for the entire year. After one year, your recipient will still be able to edit stories and print their book but will no longer be able to add new stories or images. To send MyStories as a gift, order the service and choose "someone else" when asked who will tell the stories. You may choose a special date to send the service and a gift message. The recipient will start receiving emails on the date you assign.

Additional copies of the printed book can be ordered after it is complete. You can send the service to a parent to share with their grandkids, a child to record memories you may have forgotten or never knew about, a spouse as a special place to collect their personal stories, or a friend as a unique birthday gift.

A Forgotten Piece of American Civil War History



The Sultana was a steamboat built in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1863 at the John Litherbury Shipyard. Until the end of the Civil War, it traveled the Mississippi River between St. Louis and New Orleans, carrying supplies and news.

In April 1865, after the end of the Civil War, the Sultana was one of many steamboats charged with bringing home Union POWs from Andersonville and Cahaba prisons. They were being taken to Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio, to be paroled. The soldiers boarded the Sultana in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on April 21.

A quick fix was being made to one of the boilers during boarding. Miscommunication and greed were two contributing factors that led to a riverboat intended for only 376 being overloaded with more than 2,000 people.

Around 2:00 AM on April 27, 1865, the Sultana was seven miles north of Memphis, Tennessee, when it exploded. Over 1,000 people lost their lives in this tragedy.

The Sultana Association was formed in the late 1980s and is open to all, whether you have a relative who was on board or not. Some founding members have no personal connection to the disaster, only a passion for the story. The 2025 Reunion will be held on April 25 and 26 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Association typically visits historic sites with Civil War connections and cemeteries with famous Civil War figures or those buried with someone on board the Sultana. At past reunions, people related to each other through a soldier or civilian on board the Sultana have met for the first time and forged new bonds.

Detailed information on the disaster, the Sultana Association, and the Reunion can be found

at <https://www.thesultanaassociation.com/> and on their Facebook Group Page

at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/626152782862251>.

We are who we are because they were who they were. - Unknown

Ireland Research

Irish Genealogy Workshop, Pittsburgh, PA, March 4, 2025



Irish genealogy experts Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast are back after a one-year hiatus for the tenth annual Irish Genealogy Workshop, presented in partnership with the Westmoreland Historical Society, on Tuesday, March 4 at the Heinz History Center. Benefitting beginners and seasoned genealogists alike, this in-depth workshop will examine many historical records and electronic resources that will advance your Irish genealogy research.

Admission is \$30 for History Center, Westmoreland Historical Society, and Ulster Historical Foundation Guild members and \$40 for non-members. Register for the in-person and online workshops at <https://my.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/558/list?date=2025-03-04T00:00:00-0500&membershipIds=>

This is a hybrid program. Attendees can participate either online or in person at the Heinz History Center. Advance registration is required. Captioning will be provided. For additional accommodations or information, contact Sierra Green at 412-454-6361 or sgreen@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Boxed lunches are available for an additional fee of \$16. For any dietary restrictions, please contact programs@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Live presentations include:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research
- Law and order records in Ireland: sources relating to the police, local courts, and the prison system in Ireland
- Irish church records for use in genealogical research: baptismal, marriage and burial records
- How to get the best use out of the Ulster Historical Foundation's new website

Special access to lecture recordings will be available to attendees following the live workshop.

This day-long program will explore new insights into historic records and electronic resources. Featuring live Q&A sessions and

interactive networking opportunities, this workshop will foster connections between attendees and expert speakers.

Along with experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation, representatives from the History Center's Detre Library & Archives, the Westmoreland Historical Society, and other local genealogical societies will be on hand to share best practices and tips with visitors and fellow researchers.

This workshop is offered in partnership with the Westmoreland Historical Society, which preserves and interprets the history of Westmoreland County.

Also, this year, there are individual, one-on-one consultation sessions with our speakers. These will take place on Wednesday, March 5. [Please register online](#) for more details and to book a time with them.

Genealogical Society of Ireland

Every Wednesday, at 6:00 AM (EDT), the Genealogical Society of Ireland offers free research advice. An information discussion group meets via Zoom, focused on family history matters, where members of the Society help each other and visitors from home and overseas with their research queries. All are welcome. Details:

Zoom Meeting ID: 830 9870 7989

Passcode: SIX, SEVEN, ZERO, NINE, FOUR, FIVE

More information about the Society can be found at <https://familyhistory.ie/newtheme/>. Right of admission is strictly reserved, so log in early. Digital activities are influenced by both local and European Union (EU) legislation.

Do You Have Irish Ancestry? Video

https://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=ExnRv&m=3fQ3PeO3.QRyXng&b=hf_zV5nhSVR3wV98QoAn3g

Chinese Genealogical Resources



The Lunar New Year started on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. This is the year of the Snake, which is celebrated in many Asian countries, including China, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The snake is associated with calmness and introspection. People born in the Year of the Snake are said to be mysterious, charming, and wise.

Learn more about Chinese genealogical resources at:

Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Resources include published materials, manuscript collections, newspapers and other periodicals, photographs, and other graphics. <https://hsp.libguides.com/c.php?g=1164308>.

Library of Congress. <https://guides.loc.gov/chinese-origins/online-resources>

- Chinese Rare Book Digital Collection <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chinese-rare-books/about-this-collection/>

(cont.)

- Selections from the Naxi Manuscript Collection
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/naxi-manuscripts/about-this-collection/> (cont.)

My China Roots. Join 16,349 users, grow your tree, get notified of new collections, and connect with others passionate about exploring their Chinese heritage. Can't travel to China or speak Chinese? China-based researchers can help track down ancestral villages and translate family history records.
<https://www.mychinaroots.com/>. On YouTube at https://www.google.com/search?q=Chinese+genealoical+resources&oq=Chinese+genealoical+resources&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIJCAEQIRgKGKABMgkIAhGAoYoAEyCQgDECEYChigATIJCAQQIRgKGKABMgkIBRAhGAoYoAEyBwgGECEYjwlyBwgHECEYjwlyBwgIECEYjwLSAQkxMTc5NWowajSoAgCwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#

FamilySearch. Chinese Genealogy.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Chinese_Genealogy

Chinese Family History Group (Southern California).

- Resources - Tips for starting your search, finding historical records, documenting and preserving the experiences of your ancestors.
- Events - Enhance your research with keynote speakers, webinars, meetings, and more.
- Membership - Become a member and gain access to the Guide for Researching Your Chinese Family History and our recorded webinars and meetings.

<https://chinesefamilyhistory.org/>

Genealogy Garage: Exploring Chinese Genealogy Books on

YouTube, submitted by LA Public Library at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICAFWYvviJl>

Holocaust-Related Records at the National Archives



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is an international epicenter of Holocaust-related research. NARA holds millions of records created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II that document Nazi war crimes, wartime refugee issues, and

activities and investigations of U.S. Government agencies involved in the identification and recovery of looted assets, including gold, art, and cultural property, as well as captured German records used as evidence at the International Military Tribunal (IMT) at Nuremberg, U.S. military tribunals at Nuremberg, and U.S. Army courts.

What are you researching?

- [Holocaust-Era Assets Records](#)
- [World War II War Crimes Records](#)
- [Records Relating to Nazi Concentration Camps](#)
- [Records Relating to World War II Era Refugees](#)

You can view the [Holocaust-Era Assets](#) pamphlets online through the NARA page of the International Research Portal.

What are people asking on History Hub about Holocaust Records?

- [RE: I am looking for information about my father, after his liberation from camp Bergen Belsen, for finishing his timeline. 1795th Labor Supervision Company APO 172](#)
- [RE: 45th Infantry Roster](#)
- [Nuremberg Trials](#)
- [RE: Nuremberg Trials](#)
- [RE: 45th Infantry Roster](#)

Find answers to your research questions at **History Hub** at <https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>.

Don't Miss RootsTech 2025

Join the world's largest family discovery event, RootsTech 2025, brought to you by FamilySearch from March 6 to 8 2025. An on-demand learning library is available anytime. RootsTech 2025 brings the genealogy community together for an unparalleled experience. Experience the excitement with expert-led classes, dynamic exhibits, and stories of connection and discovery.



Register for Live Sessions at Salt Lake City, Utah, at

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/in-person?cid=AR-00045149>

Register for Virtual Sessions at

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online?cid=AR-00045148>

RootsTech 2025 welcomes leaders in the genealogical community as they share their products and services with attendees at RootsTech.

There's something new to discover for all in the sponsor lineup. This year's Expo Hall will be a treasure trove of family history experiences. From new genealogy products and software to live demos to incredible deals and free samples, the sponsors offer you a wealth of knowledge and opportunities. Those attending RootsTech virtually can attend the [online Expo Hall](#), where you'll still have access to many sponsors' booths, including the chance to interact with the sponsor staff and ask questions.



Get a glimpse of each Sponsor at

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2025-sponsors> before visiting the Expo Hall for yourself on March 6–8, 2025!

Using | Doing | Teaching Black History

In partnership with the 1838 Black Metropolis, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will host a two-day workshop at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, on April 25 at 6:30 PM and April 26 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

The program, themed "Breathing Life into the Archives," will focus on liberation and civil rights histories through several centuries in the Philadelphia metro region. Historian and artist Nell Irvin Painter will present the keynote address.

[Learn more and register at](https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=51c9a783-67a9-42f1-99ae-0b51deda8738&envId=p-CsmMb_vfqUK9dbkBOklPBg&zone=usa)
https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=51c9a783-67a9-42f1-99ae-0b51deda8738&envId=p-CsmMb_vfqUK9dbkBOklPBg&zone=usa

Please click [here](#) to purchase a general admission ticket. One ticket provides admission to both Friday and Saturday or individually. Your onsite ticket is suitable for both Friday evening and Saturday. All registrants will receive the Zoom link for Friday evening's keynote address an hour before the talk. You will still receive the Zoom link and a recording if you can only join us onsite on Saturday.

Historian and artist Nell Irvin Painter will present "Arrived, New Names" as the keynote address on Friday evening. Sharing insights about her commissioned artwork focused on William Still's Journal C of the Underground Railroad, she will set the tone for exploring how creative projects can share complicated and compelling histories. In her talk, she will research 19th-century anti-slavery movements and the Black communities' interwoven literary, political, and artistic work.



The workshop on Saturday will invite participants to share strategies on how archival collections can be used to reclaim and restore community history, focusing on our collective knowledge of Black history in Philadelphia.

This event convenes teachers, students, docents, volunteers, artists, museum professionals, family historians, and other public history practitioners to learn from and share. Presentations will center on public history, its uses, challenges, and applications in the classroom, informal learning spaces, and with the public.

Celebrity Venango County Research

<https://www.venangocountyhistory.org/>

Click [here](#) to watch the most recent episode of *Finding Your Roots*, which features Venango County and was made possible partly by our researchers.

Venango County, Pennsylvania, was featured in this 2025 episode titled *Dreamers One and All*, exploring the ancestry of actress Sharon Stone and model Chrissy Teigen. What was featured in the

episode? Sharon Stone learned that her paternal great-great-great-great-grandparents came to Venango County from Ireland.

To turn up information on the celebrity's ancestors in the area, *Finding Your Roots* turned to the Venango County Historical Society for research assistance. Doris Eckel, a researcher at the Historical Society, in February, said the producers of "Finding Your Roots" sent an email inquiry to the Historical Society requesting "very simple research" regarding some wills and death records, with the promise of payment and crediting the Historical Society.

When she turned in what she had found, Eckel said, the research requests "snowballed from there and just kept coming." Over the next several months, Eckel said, she frequently communicated with Enrique Figueroa and his team at "Finding Your Roots," sometimes getting four or five emails daily. "They were very detailed, cautious," Eckel said. "It was amazing. ... Anytime I would send him anything, he would read through it right then and ask questions immediately."

Her quest for records led her beyond the Historical Society's collection to the Pennsylvania Room in the Franklin Library, where Sylvia Coast had already compiled much of the research she had been seeking. She also visited the Heritage Society of Oil City in the Oil City Library.

Finding marriage records, cemetery records, naturalization papers, wills, deeds, orphan court records, and other documentation that provided pieces to the puzzle kept Eckel busy. She was asked to find the earliest deeds for each of roughly a half-dozen early Venango County families. She also received requests for information about several local oil companies and what working at Polk State Center in the 1940s was like.

Ties to Cooperstown and Sugar Creek were found, Eckel said. At one point, she sent the producers of "Finding Your Roots" pictures of some graves at Pioneer Cemetery in Franklin. "The very last contact I had was in August; the producer called and asked how you pronounce Raymilton," she said.

"Super cool," says Sharon Stone as she learns more about her family's Western Pennsylvania roots. The Academy Award-nominated actress and humanitarian is a Saegertown native and former Miss Crawford County.



Researching for "Finding Your Roots" was a first for Eckel, who estimates she spent about 20 hours working on it. "I don't know how much Venango County research will be in the show," Eckel said, and that she believes her research will be evident when a massive family tree is rolled out at the end of the episode. "It was fun, rewarding, and interesting," Eckel said of the project.

Source: Kara O'Neil, a reporter for *The Derrick* and *The News-Herald*, can be reached at karaoneil.thederrick@gmail.com or 814-677-8369.

Pennsylvania Civil War Regimental Histories

<https://pennsylvaniagenealogy.org/uncategorized/pennsylvania-civil-war-regimental-histories.htm>

This is a list of free online-only books that *Pennsylvania Genealogy* provides for Civil War research involving Pennsylvanians, including regimental histories, artillery and cavalry units, and general histories of the Civil War and how it impacted Pennsylvania.

- [28th Regt. Infantry Penna. Volunteers: Coldstream Regiment](#)
- [History of Company K, 1st \(Inft.\) Penna Reserves / by H. N. Minnigh - 30th Infantry. Introductory edition. "](#)
- [Second brigade of the Pennsylvania reserves at Antietam. Report to mark the position of four regiments of the Pennsylvania reserves engaged in the battle - 32nd Reg](#)
- [Fiftieth anniversary of Baxter's Philadelphia Fire Zouaves 72nd Regt. Penna. Vols., August 10th, 1861 to August 10, 1911.](#)
- [Eighty-fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers \(Infantry\): address / by Thomas E. Merchant. "At the dedication of the monument on the battlefield of Gettysburg, 1889."](#)
- [History of the old flag of the Eighty-fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Civil War, 1861-1865](#)
- [Camps and campaigns of the 93d Regiment, Penna. Vols. / prepared by Geo. H. Uhler.](#)
- [Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers \("Gosline's Pennsylvania Zouaves"\) in the Sixth Corps: a historical paper / by G. Norton Galloway, read by Charles N. Snyder.](#)
- [Reunion of the Ninety-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, October 29th, 1884, "on the old camp ground at Camp Wayne, West Chester, Pa.: an account of the proceedings with a roster of the comrades present / prepared by Isaiah Price](#)
- [Brief history of the One-Hundredth Regiment \(Roundheads\)](#)
- [History of the One Hundred and Fifth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers: a complete history of the organization, marches, battles, toils, and dangers participated in by the regiment, from the beginning to the close of the war, 1861-1865 / by Kate M. Scott. "Wild Cat Regiment"](#)
- [Music on the march, 1862-'65, with the Army of the Potomac, 114th Regt. P.V., Collis' Zouaves / by Frank Rauscher. Also known as: Zouaves d'Afrique.](#)
- [History of Company F, One Hundred and Fortieth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. The company fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Battle of Gettysburg, Battle of Cold Harbor, and the Sieges of Richmond and Petersburg.](#)
- [Address on the three days' operations of the One Hundred and forty-Seventh P.V.V.I. at Gettysburg, July 1, 2, and 3, 1863, delivered Sept. 12, 1889, on the occasion of the dedication of the 147th Regt. P.V.V.I. Monument on Gettysburg Battlefield, on Culp's Hill.](#)
- [Genealogy of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry 2nd Bucktails, 1862-1865 / researched and compiled by Charles Freeland Faust to September 1993. Supplement to Richard E. Matthews' One day of Glory.](#)

- [General History of Company D, 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and personal sketches of the members / compiled by John W. Nesbit, with the assistance of the committee and other members and friends of the Company.](#)
- [Roll of Honor of the Seventeenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, or One Hundred and Sixty-Second of the line, Pennsylvania Volunteers](#)
- [Daily journal of the 192d Reg't, Penn'a Volunteers, commanded by Col. William B. Thomas, by John C. Myers.](#)
- [History of the One Hundred and Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers: being a complete record of the regiment. Also known as the Sixth Union League.](#)

Artillery Units

- [History of Hampton Battery F, Independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery: organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 8, 1861, mustered out in Pittsburgh, June 26, 1865 / compiled by William Clark.](#)
- [Oration delivered by Samuel H. Rhoads at the dedication of the monument erected by the state of Pennsylvania on the battlefield of Antietam to commemorate the battle record and services of Durell's Battery "D" Pennsylvania Volunteer Artillery, from September 24th, 1861, to June 13th, 1865](#)
- [Register of the "Artillery Corps, Washington Grays" members of Philadelphia who served in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865 / compiled by Captain John O. Foering.](#)

Calvary Units

- [Constitution and by-laws of Company H, Third Pennsylvania Cavalry: with a brief history and muster roll. Company H was formed from a previously existing cavalry organization of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, known as the Big Spring Adamantine Guards](#)
- [Dedication of the monument of the Sixth Penna. Cavalry "Lancers": on the battlefield of Gettysburg, October 14, 1888. Also known as "Rush's Lancers"; Officers and enlisted men who died 1861-1865: p. 31-37](#)
- [Leaves from a trooper's diary - 15th Calvary Experiences with the 15th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry \(the Anderson Cavalry\). "An account of the mutiny in the Anderson Cavalry, at Nashville, Tenn., December 1862" \(by George S. Fobes\)](#)
- [Short account of the 30th annual banquet held at Philadelphia, October 10, 1902 - 15th Calvary. Includes reminiscences of the Civil War and biographical sketches, with necrology and lists of survivors](#)

Additional Civil War Histories

- [The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, 1814. This volume intends to provide a factual and impartial account of the various Divisions, Brigades, Regiments, and Companies, along with the rank of every citizen who served their country on September 12th and 13th, 1814, at North Point and Fort McHenry. The information is taken from original rolls on file in the 3rd auditor's office of the War Department. Contains information about York, Pa. volunteers, attached to the 5th Maryland infantry, and Hanover, Pa. volunteers, attached to the 39th Maryland infantry.](#)

DNA News

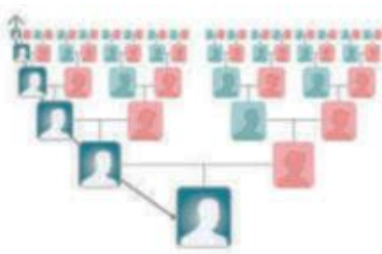


On January 16, 2025, Janine Cloud wrote an article for the [FamilyTree DNA Blog](#) titled *Y-DNA Haplotree Growth and Genetic Discoveries in 2024*. She said that *2024 brought groundbreaking advancements in Y-DNA testing, haplogroup discoveries, and the*

expansion of the Y-DNA Tree of Humankind. Explore how new tools like the Discover™ Classic Tree, significant haplogroup splits, and community contributions helped uncover more about our genetic lineage.

High points for Y-DNA research with FamilyTreeDNA in this article include:

- How the Y-DNA Haplotree Grew in 2024
- Why Tracking Y-DNA Haplotree Growth Matters
 - Variants
 - Branches
- A Closer Look at the Y-DNA Tree's Growth in 2024
- Haplogroup Highlights: Key Contributors to 2024's Y-DNA Growth
 - Haplogroup R
 - Haplogroup J
 - Haplogroup I
 - Haplogroup R
 - Haplogroup E
 - Haplogroup N
 - Haplogroup G
 - Haplogroup Q
- Innovative Tools That Enhanced Y-DNA Research in 2024
- Major Haplogroup Splits in 2024



Janine Cloud became interested in genealogy when a grade school assignment to complete a pedigree chart prompted her to question family members about her ancestors. She began working at FamilyTreeDNA in 2011, creating the Group Projects team to assist Group Project Administrators and group project members.

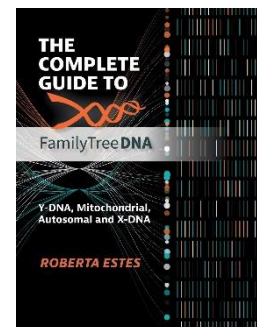
Janine is also the event coordinator, handling arrangements for all FamilyTreeDNA-supported events and conferences. She is a fifth-generation Texan and a registered member of the Cherokee Nation.

Link at https://blog.familytreedna.com/y-dna-haplotree-growth-2024/?utm_source=FamilyTreeDNA&utm_campaign=974b0030af-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b0f8841478-974b0030af-259033674

Complete Guide to FamilyTreeDNA: Y-, Mitochondrial, Autosomal & X-DNA

Readers requested this new full-color version of the book. The black-and-white print version and the color e-book are still available, giving purchasers three choices.

Roberta Estes wrote this book to educate genealogists about DNA testing for genealogy and provide instructions for using these tools individually and in combination.



With four tests available for genealogy, plus tools like [Discover™](#), [Family Matching](#), and [Group Projects](#), FamilyTreeDNA offers multiple innovative methods and unique resources to learn more about your ancestors and break down brick walls. Additionally, this 247-page book includes:

- Genetic genealogy education – how DNA works for genealogists and why
- 267 images
- 288 footnotes
- 12 charts
- 68 tips
- An 18-page glossary
- Case studies

Copies can be ordered from <https://genealogical.com/store/the-complete-guide-to-family-tree-dna/?ref=2010827> or through Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Complete-Guide-Family-Tree-Mitochondrial/dp/0806321407>.

Tips and Resources for Using mtDNA

In November 2024, Katy Rowe-Schurwanz wrote an article for the FamilyTreeDNA blog announcing Part Five of a five-part series about what mtDNA is, what mtDNA can tell you, and how to apply mtDNA results to your genealogy. The series includes:

- Part 1: [What is mtDNA?](#)
- Part 2: [Exploring the Full Mitochondrial Genome: Understanding the Inheritance of Mitochondria](#)
- Part 3: [Interpreting mtDNA Test Results](#)
- Part 4: [Using mtDNA for Genealogical Research](#)
- Part 5: [Tips and Resources for Using mtDNA](#)

This series allows you to access resources for further learning, tools, and expert tips for setting genealogy goals, preparing for test results, and maximizing tools to uncover your maternal ancestry.

Link: https://blog.familytreedna.com/mtDNA-tips-and-resources/?utm_source=FamilyTreeDNA&utm_campaign=974b0030af-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b0f8841478-974b0030af-259033674

TECHNOLOGY FOR GENEALOGY

How To Use Boolean Operators When Searching Online

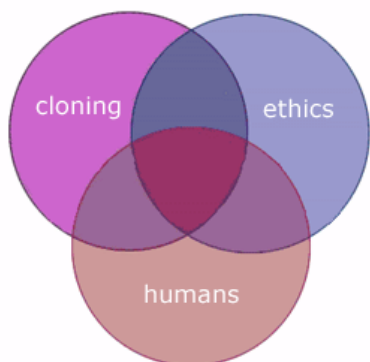
Boolean operators form the basis of mathematical sets and database logic. They connect your search words together to either narrow or broaden your set of results. The three basic Boolean operators are AND, OR, and NOT.

Why Use Boolean Operators?

- To focus a search, mainly when your topic contains multiple search terms.
- To connect various pieces of information to find exactly what you're looking for.
- Example: second creation (title) AND wilmot AND campbell (author) AND 2000 (year)

Use AND In a Search To:

- Narrow your results
- Tell the database that ALL search terms must be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning AND humans AND ethics



The purple triangle in the middle of the Venn diagram on the left represents the result set for this search. It is a small set using AND, the combination of all three search words.

Be aware: The AND is implied in many, but not all, databases. For example, Google automatically inserts an AND between your search terms.

Though all your search terms are included in the results, they may not be connected how you want. For example, this search: college students test anxiety is translated to: college AND students AND test AND anxiety.

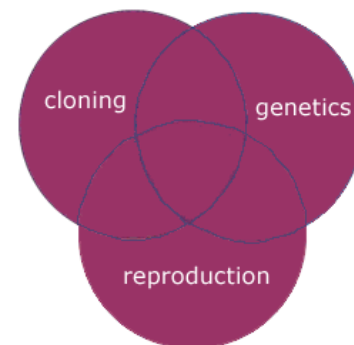
The words may appear individually throughout the resulting records. You can search using phrases to make your results more specific. For example: "college students" AND "test anxiety". This way, the words appear as you expect them to be in the results.

Use NOT In a Search To:

- Exclude words from your search
- Narrow your search, telling the database to ignore concepts that your search terms may imply
- Example: cloning NOT sheep

Use OR In a Search To:

- Connect two or more similar concepts (synonyms)
- Broaden your results, telling the database that ANY of your search terms can be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning OR genetics OR reproduction



The three circles on the left represent the result set for this search. It is a big set because any of those words are valid using the OR operator.

Search Order

Databases follow commands you type in and return results based on those commands. Be aware of the logical order in which words are connected when using Boolean operators:

- Databases usually recognize AND as the primary operator and connect concepts with AND first.
- If you use a combination of AND and OR operators in a search, enclose the words to be "ORed" together in parentheses.

Examples:

- ethics AND (cloning OR reproductive techniques)
- (ethic* OR moral*) AND (bioengineering OR cloning)

Source: [MIT Libraries](#)

Online Record Set News

Ancestry.com

<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections>

FamilySearch.org

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/tag/about-familysearch/whats-new-at-familysearch>

MyHeritage

<https://blog.myheritage.com/category/announcements/>

FindMyPast

<https://www.findmypast.com/articles/new-records>

U. S. National Archives & Records Administration

<https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/whats-new>

The National Archives of Britain

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/default.aspx>

Allen County Public Library Research Resources

<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/research-resources>

Ulster Historical Foundation

<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/genealogy-databases/list>

Western PA Family History Resources

In addition to the many assets of WPGS, many other regional organizations may have valuable information to assist in our family history research. Along with Facebook pages and groups, many have dedicated websites that can help you.

Allegheny County

[Detre Library and Archives at the Heinz History Center](#)

[Historic Pittsburgh](#)

[Allegheny County Government](#)

[Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Family & Local History Department](#)

[USGenWeb Project](#)

Armstrong County

[Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society](#)

[Armstrong County Genealogy Club](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Beaver County

[Beaver County Genealogy & History Center](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Bedford County

[Bedford County Historical Society \(BCHS\)](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Blair County

[Blair County Genealogical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Butler County

[Butler Area Public Library, Weir Genealogy Room](#)

[Cranberry Genealogy Club](#)

[Zelienople Historical Society](#)

[Genealogy Club at the Zelienople Library](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Cambria County

[Cambria County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Cameron County

[Cameron County Genealogy Project](#)

[Cameron County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Clarion County

[Clarion County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Clearfield County

[Clearfield County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Crawford County

[Crawford County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Elk County

[Elk County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Erie County

[Erie Society for Genealogical Research](#)

[Hagen History Center](#)

[Erie County Public Library, Blasco Memorial Heritage Room](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Fayette County

[Uniontown Library, Pennsylvania Room](#)

[Fayette County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Forest County

[Forest County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Greene County

[Cornerstone Genealogical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Indiana County

[Historical & Genealogical Society of Indiana County](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Jefferson County

[Jefferson County History Center](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Lawrence County

[Lawrence County Historical Society](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

McKean County

[Painted Hills Genealogy Society](#)

[Bradford Area Public Library](#)

[Bradford Landmark Society](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Mercer County

[Mercer County Genealogical Society](#)

[Mercer County Historical Society & Museum](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Somerset County

[Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset County](#)

[USGenWeb Project *](#)

Venango County

[Venango County Historical Society](#)

[Titusville Historical Society](#)

[Franklin Public Library, PA Room: Genealogy & Local History](#)

[Oil City Public Library, Venango County Genealogy Club Collection](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Warren County

[Warren County Historical Society](#)

[Warren Public Library](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Washington County

[Citizens Library Genealogy Room](#)

[Washington County Historical Society, Grimes Research Library](#)

[Washington County Library System](#)

[USGenWebProject](#)

Westmoreland County

[Westmoreland County Historical Society Library & Genealogy](#)

[Baltzer Meyer Historical Society, Paul Miller Ruff Library](#)

[USGenWebProject *](#)

Genealogy at the State Library of Pennsylvania

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Repository Guides

* Needs a Coordinator.

Online at www.wpgs.org



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[WPGS Ancestor Directories](#)

[Surnames](#), [First Families of Western Pennsylvania](#),
[Member Ancestor Charts](#)

[Regional Records](#)

[Death & Burial Records](#) Allegheny County Morgue Book Index,
Allegheny County Veterans Burial Records Index, Registration of
Deaths, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1893-1905, **Unindexed
Cemetery Records for Little Beaver Cemetery**, Deaths & Missing
During Native American Conflicts Before 1812, **Index of the
Registration of Deaths, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1893-
1905**, South Hills, Pittsburgh, PA, Indexed Cemetery Records,
Funeral Home Records

[Church Records](#): North Liberty United Presbyterian Church,
Grove City, Pennsylvania, **Digitized (Western PA) Church Records**

[Military Records](#): GAR Post Membership, **Allegheny County's
Civil War Roll of Honor, Allegheny County Veterans Burial
Records Index**, Civil War: Regimental Roster for the 103rd

Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry: A-L and M-Z

[Miscellaneous Records](#): Family Histories & Archives, Photos and
Memorabilia, **Family Bible Pages**, **Member Family Archives**,
Miscellaneous Dockets of Quarter Sessions in Allegheny County,
**Allegheny County Naturalizations, Index of the Tax Rolls for
Middlesex Township, Butler County for 1839 and 1855**, Western
Pennsylvania Historical Publications)

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