



Cranberry Genealogy Club

April 2024

Volume 7, Issue 3

Website: www.CranberryGenealogy.org

E-mail: Info@CranberryGenealogyClub.org

Social Media: Find us on Facebook @CranGenClub

c/o 27 Sunset Court

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

[Facebook.com/CranGenClub](https://www.facebook.com/CranGenClub)

Upcoming Programs for CranGenClub

On Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 6:30 P.M. Eastern Time the Cranberry Genealogy Club will welcome back Denys Allen for a virtual meeting using Zoom. Allen, the founder of PA Ancestors, LLC, will present “A Tour of the County Courthouses of Your Ancestors” to help us discover how the courthouse in each county was utilized for important and everyday life events, producing records along the way. During her presentation, our speaker will highlight what records are available during which time periods and provide information about how to access those records.

The program will begin at 6:30 P.M. but plan to join Zoom at 6:15 P.M. for our informal “Meet, Mix, and Mingle” sharing session. **Register in advance for our monthly meeting here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElcuqopzotHdGH87gGFZgEPqtpvMRIA4jv>. You will then receive an e-mail with the link to join the virtual meeting. There will also be an in-person watch party at the Cranberry FamilySearch Center at 6:30 P.M. It is located on the corner of Rochester and Powell Roads in Cranberry Township. This program will be recorded and made available for members-only for a limited time.

Genea-Breaks continue in 2024 with the next virtual session on **May 8th at 7:00 P.M.** Each month a different record group to be used for research purposes will be reviewed, and a video of the lesson portion of Genea-Break will be added to the “Member’s Only” menu of our website after the live presentation. For May, the focus will be upon tax records, and looking forward, June 12th will focus upon city directories.

Here is the Zoom link to use for joining the next **Genea-Break** for our members is Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 7:00 P.M. Eastern: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440916021>. No need to register, just use this link to join. The purpose of Genea-Break is to discuss genealogical questions, methods, and resources to help us to conduct more successful research.

Monthly FTM SIG Continues May 15th

The next virtual monthly SIG (special interest group) about Family Tree Maker (FTM) genealogical software will be held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday, May 15th using Zoom. Attendees have been learning about ways to use the various tabs and features within Family Tree Maker. You can participate by listening and learning, by asking questions, by helping to provide answers or examples, or by showcasing FTM through screensharing. Use this Zoom link to join the meeting; no registration is needed: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84031338352>.

Special International Zoom Event on May 18th: Tips for Successful Research Trips

Plans have been finalized for our next collaborative, virtual meeting with our friends from Northern Ireland’s ABC Family History Association for Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time using Zoom. Registration is required in advance, with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctd-2qqzstHtb8ZdxrH4aYRyHqG-xvGcp>. The program’s format will include five or six short presentations from representative members of both groups with plenty of planned time for discussion and questions. This is a Members-Only program.

Many genealogists dream about researching in an ancestral country, or even in a remote location within the U.S. Imagine getting there and running into roadblocks due to a lack of planning and preparation. During this special international program and exchange of ideas, we will focus upon reasons for researching in another country, strategies for planning, and tips for ensuring success, especially if time is limited. Bring your questions and consider diving into the discussion part of this special event to gain information for your own genealogical journey into your heritage. Mark your calendar, and remember to register soon!

Library Lock-In Added for June 15 in Zelienople

There will be a Genealogy Library Lock-In on Saturday, June 15th from 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. at the Zelienople Area Public Library on High Street behind Walgreens. This particular lock-in will be informal with participants providing their own snacks or lunch and without any presentations. Instead, everyone will set up their own technology and work on individual genealogical research in a collaborative atmosphere. This free event is free and

CranGenClub Future Event Dates at a Glance

Sat., May 4 - Brick Walls & Bagels Starbucks/Giant Eagle 8:00 A.M.

Wed., May 8 - Genea-Break, Virtual 7:00 P.M.

Wed., May 15 - FTM SIG, Virtual 7:00 P.M.

Sat., May 18 – ABC FHA and CranGenClub, Virtual 10:00 A.M.
“Preparing to Research and Travel in Another Country”

Wed., May 22 - Monthly Meeting, Hybrid 6:30 P.M.
“County Courthouses of Our Ancestors” by Denys Allen

Sat., Jun. 1 – Brick Walls & Bagels Starbucks/Giant Eagle 8:00 A.M.

open to the public. Please bring your own technology as there are limited computers in the library. Attendees have full access to *Ancestry Library Edition*, *MyHeritage Library Edition*, and *PA Photos and Documents* through the library online portal. There will be a couple of volunteers available to consult with individuals. Plan to meet in the main floor's meeting room for the workshop. This Lock-In provides dedicated research time for your genealogical goals or projects.

Recap of March Meeting: Using *Fold3 Library Edition* for Research

Written by John Francis, CranGenClub Co-Secretary

We welcomed Debra Dudek, Head of Adult and Teen Learning Services at Fountaindale Public Library District located in Bolingbrook, Illinois, to our Zoom meeting on March 27, 2024. Debra is a World War I genealogy expert and author and gave an excellent presentation demonstrating what *Fold3 Library Edition* is, how it works, and how to navigate the site.

Debra started with a brief introduction to *Fold3* noting that the site is set up and functions differently from *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch* and other genealogy websites. Although *Fold3* has pretty much cornered the market on American military records, *Fold3* is not just a military database. It contains other significant genealogical information such as naturalizations, city directories, newspapers, and specific vital records as well. *Fold3* also has some unusual and rare employment, orphan, and correspondence collections not found elsewhere and covers most major conflicts, not just U.S.-involved ones, as well as some lesser known ones.

Because *Fold3* is organized differently, Debra highly recommended browsing the site and record collection first to become familiar with the setup, and peruse what is available rather than immediately trying to use the search function. Under the "Browse" tab you can filter results by keywords, and keep expanding the browse areas as you click on additional boxes that open during your search. Debra supplied a very helpful handout complete with screenshots to guide newcomers in navigating the site. If you are new to *Fold3* you also may want to go to their help/training site by typing "Fold3 training center" into your internet browser. Free text and videos will help you best navigate.

If you can't find what you are looking for on *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*, it is worth searching within *Fold3*, because some unexpected and very specific records may be found there including U.S. Morning Reports, Daily Sick Reports, Navy Crews books, training unit photos, Native American records, and many other non-military records.

Debra has kindly provided her contact information debradudek@yahoo.com and website www.debradudek.com if anyone has questions or is looking for more information. The website has a link to her free webinar "Finding Your WWI Ancestors" as well as links to several upcoming webinars.

What Sites Are You Using for Genealogy?

Written by Sue Ennis, CranGenClub Editor and President

Each country has its own way to organize and provide access to

records, and there are many reliable and accurate websites available for research, in addition to the well-known sites. I have found that a quality website has very specific information and focuses upon local information. Once you locate and realize the usefulness of a site, be sure to bookmark the home page within your internet browser settings for ease in returning to the page.

This month I will highlight a great website for use if you are researching your ancestry in Slovakia, although like many such websites, there is information about other regions. **Genealogy Slovakia** website, located online at <https://www.cisarik.com/>, is full of links with information about places and the various names (and spellings!) of those places through time. The site has a photo gallery with beautiful images with captions from around Slovakia today. The website author is Juraj Čisarík, who offers services to visitors including being a tour guide and translation/language help. No need to be put off by Juraj's promotions; the historic village and county information and timelines of name changes is valuable enough to visit the site.

Methodology Note: A method for finding websites that focus upon a specific ancestral heritage or home country while using a search engine might include a Boolean search or a keyword search. A Boolean search includes the use of operators to provide more specific wording, or even to eliminate a subset of a term or word. A humorous example of this would be for researching Olympic Games events such as the winter sport of curling. If you simply search using the term "curling" your results will include the sport but also distractors such as hair design. Use this to get to the topic of focus: Curling +Olympics -Hair. Note the spacing of the operators + and - in the search. To use a keyword search enter just a few specific words into the search bar without any superfluous words. An example would be **Slovakia Genealogy** which by the way will yield results in a different order than typing **Genealogy of Slovakia**. More about this in the next newsletter!

Ohio Lands Book Reviewed

Submitted by Marian Kowalski, CranGenClub Member

Marian Kowalski was reminded of a resource after hearing about deeds during the January meeting, a book that "might help (or entertain) others who had relatives who moved to or through Ohio, especially before 1850." *Here is her wonderful review with links.*

Although I respect and admire Thomas Jefferson's insistence on changing to rectangular land surveys for selling and granting federal lands, Ohio's many land districts used different rules from each other for numbering and describing land parcels, making it hard for us now to figure out who lived next to whom and just where they lived in a particular county. Sometimes knowing where they settled in Ohio can hint at where they came from or why they had to move to Ohio. There is a free PDF booklet, *Ohio Lands Book*, from the Ohio Auditor's office that covers the history and differences nicely: <https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/docs/OhioLandsBook.pdf> I marked up my own PDF to help me find my favorite oddities like Ministerial Lands or Connecticut School Lands more quickly.

There's another book that fascinates me: *Measuring America* by Andro Linklater. You can find some fairly cheap used copies

at [AbeBooks.com](https://abebooks.com) and [Powells.com](https://powells.com). Linklater was the one who inspired my admiration for Jefferson's steps to regularize measurements of all kinds in the US, to limit opportunities for fraud. We take standard weights and other measures for granted now, but Jefferson made them into law. If you question my sanity on the subject, listen to a bit of this interview with Linklater from 2003: <https://www.wyso.org/show/book-nook/2019-05-27/best-of-the-book-nook-measuring-america-by-andro-linklater>

I hope this will help a couple other club members-or tickle their imaginations.

GENEALOGICAL EVENTS NEAR 16066

Cranberry Genealogy Club

Saturday, 4 May 2024

In-Person

Brick Walls and Bagels is a monthly social gathering for any members of the CranGenClub to meet with fellow genealogists and help each other solve brick wall scenarios. Meet at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, 4 May 2024 at the Starbucks Café at Giant Eagle, Cranberry Mall, Cranberry Township, PA. You may bring a laptop or tablet or even artifacts to share. And just for fun, May the Fourth Be With You as you break down brick walls!

Genea-Break on Wednesday, 8 May 2024 **Virtual**

The next session of Genea-Break will be held on **Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** using Zoom. The link to join the virtual meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440916021> with no need to register for Genea-Breaks. In May, the mini-lesson will focus upon tax records. Each Genea-Break session is a unique mini-workshop, so CranGenClub members may participate whenever they are available. All questions are welcome.

The 12 virtual Genea-Breaks planned for the second Wednesday of each month in 2024 will focus upon a different type of record group when we meet. We will review city directories in June. If you plan to attend any Genea-Break, it would be interesting if you have an image of a record find to share with the participants. You might tell how it supported your ancestral research, or explain how you found and obtained it.

FTM SIG on Wednesday, 15 May 2024 **Virtual**

The Family Tree Maker software SIG will meet in May to continue reviewing the companion guide and demonstrating the most useful features of the software. Participants may actually take their own notes within the FTM Companion Guide by using sticky notes, following along during the demonstrations and discussion. To attend this members-only Zoom event at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 15th, use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84031338352>.

Saturday, 18 May 2024

Virtual

We will co-host an international Zoom meeting with the ABC Family History Association at 10:00 A.M. Eastern time on Saturday, 18 May 2024. The focus will be upon planning and preparing to research in another country and will feature short talks by members of ABC FHA and the CranGenClub. After the presentations, there will be time for discussion and questions

between the members of both groups. As this is an event for Members Only, please register in advance to receive the Zoom link for joining the meeting. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctd-2qqzstHtb8Zdxr_H4aYRyHqG-xvGcp. This program will be recorded and made available to members of both groups a few days after the live event, but please try to attend on May 18th!

Wednesday, 22 May 2024

Hybrid

CranGenClub will welcome genealogist Denys Allen from PA Ancestors, LLC who will present a talk about "Tour the County Courthouse of Your Ancestors" at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, 22 May 2024. Travel back in time to discover all of the ways our ancestors used the county courthouse during their lives. Learn what records were made in which years and where to find those records, online or in person.

This meeting is free and open to the public. **Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting using the following link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEcuqopzotHdGH87gGFZgEPqtpvMRIA4jv>. Consider entering the Zoom meeting early on our 4th Wednesdays at 6:15 P.M. to enjoy "**Meet, Mix, and Mingle**" with fellow Cranberry Genealogy Club members and our guests. After that, our monthly program presentation will begin at 6:30 P.M. Eastern.

News from ABC Family History Association

The **ABC Family History Association** in Northern Ireland is a partner group to CranGenClub, and they have months of programming outlined at the bottom of the home page of their website, at <https://www.abcfha.com/>. ABC FHA's Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/ABCFamilyHistory>. To become an individual member of the ABC FHA, consider the options on the "Membership" web page, found online at <https://www.abcfha.com/membership>. Fill out the membership form to email. A nice option is the Online Membership, which offers a reduced annual rate from the Full Membership. A major benefit of having your own membership to ABC FHA is access to all programming, including recordings. An upcoming virtual programs available to any interested genealogist is: 8 May 2024 3:30 P.M. Eastern – Joy Smith, "Northern Ireland Directories to Help in Your Research" delivered using Zoom.

Zelienople Area Public Library

Monday, 24 June 2024 **10:30 A.M.** **Hybrid**

Note that there is no May session due to Memorial Day.

The next genealogy workshop offered by the Zelienople Library will be held in-person, and virtually as needed using Zoom, on Monday, 24 June 2024 at 10:30 A.M. This interactive program will focus upon research methods and resources with time to ask questions and solve research problems. This event is for anyone interested in genealogy, no matter what level of research experience. Newcomers are always welcome, and the discussion is perhaps the best part of the session. To make up for the missing May workshop, there will be **an informal library lock-in on Saturday, June 15th from 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.** for any genealogical researchers who could benefit from the time to sit down and focus a few hours to accomplish some finds.

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

20-21 June 2024 WPGS 50th Anniversary Conference

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (WPGS) has announced their 50th Anniversary Celebration for 2024, featuring a two-day conference.

Theme: *The Journey of Our Ancestors: Tracing Our Western Pennsylvania Roots*

- **Conference Dates and Location:** June 21-22, 2024, The University Club, 123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
- **50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Location:** June 22, 2024, Schenley Ballroom, Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center, 100 Lytton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

There are opportunities to volunteer for the conference as well as details about how to attend here: <https://wpgs.org/50th-anniversary-conference/>.

Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives

Friday, 31 May 2024 10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. In-Person

Sierra Green, archivist of the Detre Library & Archives of the Heinz History Center, has announced the first-ever **Polish Genealogy Workshop** to be offered in Pittsburgh on Friday, 31 May 2024 from 10:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. at an in person event. Join nationally renowned genealogists Ola Heska and Kinga Urbanska for the History Center's Polish Genealogy Workshop.

Heska and Urbanska will guide beginner and advanced family historians alike on a tour de force of genealogical records available online and in Polish archives. Attendees will learn about the history of Polish partitions and their impact on genealogical research. Speakers will also reveal where to turn for the largest caches of online Polish birth, marriage, and death records available. Workshop presentations will include:

- "Beginning Polish Genealogy"
- "Understanding Records during the Polish Partitions: 1772-1918"
- "Finding Polish Records Online: Where to Search"
- "Beyond Vital Records: Finding Your Polish Ancestors in Census, Military, School, and Court Records"

The fee will be \$40 for general registration and \$20 for members. Details are finalized and are now posted online along with the registration link on the Heinz History Center's Events page: <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/event/polish-genealogy-workshop/>. Registration is required for this special event.

Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh

Sunday, 5 May 2024 1:00 P.M. Virtual Only

Another program topic coming soon from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Pittsburgh is "Why Did Our Jewish Ancestors Leave the Pale?" presented by Hal Bookbinder on Sunday, 5 May 2024 at 1:00 P.M. The program is free for JGS-Pittsburgh members and \$5.00 for the general public to attend.

This talk discusses how the Pale came to be and why this mass migration occurred. It breaks the 120-year history of the Pale into periods of creation, confinement, repression, enlightenment, pogroms, and chaos. There is much more to the story than the horrific pogroms at the turn of the 20th century. There will be an additional brief talk, "My 5th Great Grandfather's Name" on the same day.

Hal Bookbinder is a retired information systems professional who continues to instruct at the university level. He has been actively researching his genealogy for more than three decades, identifying over 4,000 relatives and tracing two lines to the mid-1700s in modern Ukraine. He is a past president of the JGS of Los Angeles and of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. In 2018, he made a journey to Ukraine, visiting various areas of the former Volhynia and Podolia in which his family lived for hundreds of years.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Save these Dates for Upcoming Conferences

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference
"Expanding Possibilities" Virtual
Thurs.-Sat., 16 – 18 May 2024
<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/conferences/>

44th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Philadelphia, PA In-Person
Sun.-Thurs., 18-22 August 2024 "Where We Lived"
<https://jgasgp.org/>

Arkansas Genealogical Society
Fall Conference Virtual
Sat., 19 October 2024 Four Presentations by Cyndi Ingle
<https://argensoc.org/>

Illinois State Genealogical Society in Joliet, IL
2024 Fall Conference Hybrid
"Boats, Trains, and Automobiles: All Routes Lead to Illinois"
<https://ilgensoc.org/>

Cranberry Genealogy Club

Current Officers

Susan Ennis, President and Newsletter Editor
Judi Boren, Programs
Patty Robison, Programs
John Francis, Secretary
Rita Romig, Secretary
Pat Purifoy, Membership
Debbie Billeter, Treasurer and Webmaster



We welcome all interested individuals to our monthly meetings.

[This newsletter and its contents may only be shared or reprinted in whole or part by obtaining written permission of the Cranberry Genealogy Club.]

Proud to partner with
ABC Family
History Association of
Northern Ireland



<https://www.abcfha.com/>