



# Cranberry Genealogy Club

June, 2024

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## Upcoming Programs for CranGenClub

On Wednesday, 26 June 2024 at 6:30 P.M. Eastern Time, the Cranberry Genealogy Club will welcome Steve Cicero, retired history teacher, **at the Cranberry Library for a hybrid meeting.** To register for the virtual meeting on Zoom, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/86562701573>. Then you will receive an e-mail with the meeting link. **If attending in-person at the library, please register with the library,** due to limited seating: <https://cranberry.librarycalendar.com/event/cranberry-genealogy-club-history-hobo-whats-name-18503>. This program will not be recorded.

This presentation, "What's In A Name?" will discuss places like Bessemer Avenue, William Flynn Highway, PPG Paints Arena, Allegheny River, Phipps Conservatory, Fayette County, and Perry High School to name a few. We are surrounded by names that we see or hear daily, yet seldom do we think about those names. Most of these places and things have names of historical significance, some with fascinating stories. Known as "The History Hobo" for his unique knowledge, Cicero taught history for 38 years in the Butler Area School District and now presents talks about local, regional, and national history.



Cicero has been known for his museum-like classroom and collection of historically appropriate hats. After retiring, he decided to put his knowledge of local history trivia, passion for teaching, and hat collection to creative use, starting The History Hobo! In addition to presentations, he also plans bus tours throughout the tri-state area for interested people.

**Genea-Breaks** continue in 2024 with the next virtual session on **June 12th at 7:00 P.M.** June will focus upon city directories as valuable records. Here is the Zoom link to use for joining the next **Genea-Break:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86562701573>. 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.

## Special Event June 19<sup>th</sup>: Family Tree Maker Comes to Cranberry Township

Family Tree Maker Executive Director Robert "Duff" Wilson and FTM Ambassador Mark Olson along with Robert "Duff" Wilson, FTM Executive Director, will hold an in-person program,

and attendance is free. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, 19 June 2024 at the FamilySearch Center at the corner of Powell and Rochester Roads in Cranberry Township, PA 16066. It will begin promptly at 6:30 P.M. All in attendance will receive a very special FTM discount, and this event is open to the public.

Session 1 will introduce Family Tree Maker 2024 and remind users about the best features of FTM software for genealogy. Then Session 2 will be a deep dive with FTM Connect and AlbumWALK. The wrap-up for the evening will feature and Q and A discussion with the experts from Family Tree Maker.

Due to limited seating, please RSVP as soon as possible for planning purposes by sending your name to us at [CranberryGenealogyClub@gmail.com](mailto:CranberryGenealogyClub@gmail.com).

## Library Lock-In Added for June 15 in Zelienople

There will be a Genealogy Library Lock-In on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 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 event was recently added due to missing a workshop meeting on Memorial Day.

This event is free and 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's 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.

### CranGenClub

### Future Event Dates at a Glance

Wed., June 12 - Genea-Break, Virtual	7:00 P.M.
Wed., June 19 – FTM Program and Instruction, In-Person Cranberry FamilySearch Center with Mark Olson and Duff Wilson	7:00 P.M.
Wed., June 26 - Monthly Meeting, In-Person "What's In A Name?" by Steve Cicero, The History Hobo	6:30 P.M.
Sat., July 6 – Brick Walls & Bagels Starbucks/Giant Eagle	8:00 A.M.
Wednesday, July 10 - Genea-Break, Virtual	7:00 P.M.

## Recap of May's Meeting: Courthouse Researching

*Written by John Francis, CranGenClub Co-Secretary*

We welcomed Denyse Allen, founder of PA Ancestors, LLC to our Zoom meeting on 22 May 2024. Denyse is a professional genealogist and author who specializes in Pennsylvania records and gave an engaging presentation about how to research county courthouse records.

County courthouses were the primary keepers of records for citizens and immigrants from 1682 to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of these records are available online, especially on *FamilySearch*, but few are indexed and searchable. Some county courthouses have also digitized records and indexes but much needs to be accessed in person. Denyse showed many examples of how to search and what may be available in county courthouses.

Denyse provided an excellent handout that mirrored her presentation and gave an overview of the types of records available in courthouses. She grouped record types into eight categories but also explained what records were available in each category. This was very helpful in determining what office you may need to go to in a courthouse to find specific records. The categories included Vital Records, Land Records, Estate Records, Tax Records, Civil Court Records, Criminal Court Records, Naturalization Records, and Miscellaneous Records.

Denyse's categorization, explanation of their contents, and what office to visit will help save time for in-person trips to courthouses. Denyse also provided a recommended search method, highlighting the importance of preparation before a visit.

Additional tips that Denyse provided throughout her presentation included making a chart or spreadsheet of tax records to help understand changes over time, searching in different courts for naturalization records as a Declaration of Intention and a Petition for Naturalization that may have been filed separately, checking county websites occasionally because they change/update record availability, and that county records found on *Ancestry* are also found on *FamilySearch*. Although Denyse's talk focused upon Pennsylvania records, the same principles apply to other states.

You can contact Denyse through her website [www.paancestors.com](http://www.paancestors.com). Her website contains a lot of free content such as podcasts and lists of resources and books. A free email registration nets you a Pennsylvania genealogy research course, weekly newsletter, access to free articles, and other benefits. Additional content is available for paid members.

## Open House Scheduled for Pittsburgh Temple

Our friends from the local church have announced the Open House schedule for the general public to tour the new Pittsburgh Temple on Powell Road on Mondays through Saturdays, beginning Friday, 16 August – Saturday, 31 August from 9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. If interested, start the tour in the Stake Center and plan for 45 minutes. There will be ushers but no guided tours. We continue to be grateful for the free use of facilities at the Cranberry FamilySearch Center for many of our monthly meetings in the past 18 months.

## Free Virtual Open House from American Ancestors

The Brue Family Learning Center of the New England Genealogical Historical Society is hosting a free, virtual open house to learn about *American Ancestors'* databases on Monday, 17 June 2024 from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. Eastern time. Kathleen MacKenzie and David Alan Lambert will present information about the billions of searchable names on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), discuss the available scholarly journals and award-winning magazine, highlight the collections online and at the research center, and provide one-on-one opportunities to work with the NEGHS genealogists to advance your genealogy. **Registration in advance is required to access this virtual event at:** <https://hubs.americanancestors.org/aa-virtual-open-house>.

## Birth Announcements Index Now Available on Newspapers.com

*Press Release, Partial – 20 May 2024*

Now available on Newspapers.com is a “Birth Announcement Index” for subscribers and those using the library edition at the FamilySearch Center. It is searchable by first name, surname, or name of parent. Historically, newspaper birth announcements heralded new family members and often included details about the baby, the family, location of birth and date, and hints about residence and sometimes about other family members.

The full article with examples is available online here: <https://blog.newspapers.com/birth-announcements/>.

## GENEALOGICAL EVENTS NEAR 16066

### *Cranberry Genealogy Club*

#### **Genea-Break on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 Virtual**

The next session of Genea-Break will be held on **Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** using Zoom. The link to join the virtual meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86562701573> with no need to register for Genea-Breaks. In June the mini-lesson will focus upon using city directories. Each Genea-Break session is a unique mini-workshop, so CranGenClub members may participate whenever they are available. All questions are welcome.

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. We are also starting a new feature in June with one member a month talking about “My Genealogy Journey” to inspire others.

#### **FTM Special Event Wednesday, 19 June 2024 In-Person**

The Family Tree Maker software leaders Mark Olson and Duff Wilson will lead FTM 2024 workshops in-person at the Cranberry FamilySearch Center on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. Due to limited seating please RSVP with your name if attending by emailing [CranberryGenealogyClub@gmail.com](mailto:CranberryGenealogyClub@gmail.com). See details about this exclusive event on page 2 of this newsletter issue or on our website, [www.CranberryGenealogy.org](http://www.CranberryGenealogy.org).

**Wednesday, 26 June 2024 6:30 P.M. Hybrid**

CranGenClub will welcome The History Hobo, local Pittsburgher Steve Cicero at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at the Cranberry Library. NOTE the location of this meeting! "What's In a Name?" will reveal background about place names such as Bessemer Avenue, William Flinn Highway, PPG Paints Arena, Allegheny River, Phipps Conservatory, Fayette County, and Perry High School. Learn about the people behind the names and the historical significance. Seating is limited, so please register online at: <https://cranberry.librarycalendar.com/>. This meeting is free and open to the public. **Please register in advance for the Zoom virtual option for the meeting using the following link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEsD06opjMqH9yG2bwpk7A4PqbPN12Zj7Qo>. Consider entering the Zoom meeting early on our 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Saturday, 6 July 2024 8:00 A.M. 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, 6 July 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.

### ***Zelienople Area Public Library***

**Saturday, 15 June 2024 10:30 A.M. In-Person**

To make up for no workshop meeting in May due to Memorial Day, there is a special Saturday event planned for June 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 A.M. – 2.30 P.M. at the Zelienople Area Public Library. Feel free to come for part of all of this collaborative work session. Bring your own technology and use your own or the library's digital resources to research among fellow genealogists. Short consultations will be available for individual attendees during the morning. All interested individuals are welcome!

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

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.

### **News from ABC Family History Association**

The **ABC Family History Association** in Northern Ireland is a partner group to CranGenClub, and in mid-May we enjoyed presentations by Joy Smith, and our own Rich Watson and Sharon Cimoch about how to travel for research. ABC FHA is in the process of selling their latest book, created by members, and organizing upcoming programs, which will be listed at the bottom of the home page of their website, at <https://www.abcfha.com/>.

You can find news and photos from ABC FHA on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/ABCFamilyHistory>. To become an individual member of the ABC FHA, consider the options on the web page link: <https://www.abcfha.com/membership>. Fill out the membership form to email.

### ***Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society***

**20-21 June 2024 WPGS 50<sup>th</sup> 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

All details are listed online here: <https://wpgs.org/50th-anniversary-conference/>.

### ***Butler County Genealogical Society***

**Tuesday, 18 June 2024 6:15 P.M. In-Person**

The Butler County Genealogical Society will host the webinar "The National Road: America's First Federal Highway" by Annette Burke Lyttle at 6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> in the Reading Room on the main floor of the Butler Area Public Library. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Annette Burke Lyttle owns Heritage Detective, LLC, providing professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing. She speaks on a variety of genealogical topics at the international, national, state, and local levels and loves helping people uncover and share their family stories.

She is coordinator of the *Intermediate Foundations* course and the *Writing the Stories of Our Ancestors* course for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Annette leads *Best Practices Study Groups* for a number of organizations, providing in-depth education on the genealogical research process in an interactive setting. She is past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists and editor of *The Florida Genealogist*.

Built between 1811 and 1837, the National Road, also called the National Pike or Route 40, was the first federally-funded highway in America. Extending from Cumberland, Maryland, it entered Pennsylvania and transited through what later became Uniontown, Brownsville, and Washington before exiting PA into Ohio near West Alexander.

This migration route allowed thousands of people to settle in the Midwest and provided a "highway" for immigrants entering the U.S. at Baltimore to travel to points north such as the Pittsburgh area. If some of your immigrant ancestors traveled this route, bring their information and join the discussion after the presentation.

## Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives

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

Join the History Panel of the Heinz History Center for a program about the new exhibit, *A Woman's Place: How Women Shaped Pittsburgh* on Sunday, 30 June 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 P.M. The fee will be \$10 for non-members and free 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/keystone-stories-uncovering-the-legacies-of-pennsylvania-women/>. Registration is required for this event.

In many cases, the accomplishments of women philanthropists, activists, or business owners were well-known in their day but then minimized or forgotten as time passed. The panel of speakers will include authors Kimberly Hess and Eliza Smith Brown as they share their unique, investigative processes for reclaiming the narratives of overlooked women in history.

## Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh

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

The next program topic from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Pittsburgh is "Rabbis, Innkeepers, Tricksters: Jewish Life in Poland-Lithuania" presented by Dr. Zachary Mazur on Sunday, 7 July 2024 at 1:00 P.M. This virtual program is free for JGS-Pittsburgh members and \$5.00 for the general public to attend.

Mazur has designed his presentation around the question, "What do we know about the home of European Jewry?" Approximately 80% of the world's Jews have a connection to Eastern Europe, and all of them once lived in a unique country called the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Join Zachary Mazur, Senior Historian at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, to discuss the key question of why Jews settled in Eastern Europe and what their lives looked like there. While discussing the larger historical narrative, we will focus on the stories of those living in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to paint a picture of Jewish life before the Great Migration that began in the 1880s.

Details and a registration link for this program are found online at: <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/event/rabbis-innkeepers-tricksters-jewish-life-in-poland-lithuania/>.

## Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

**Thursday, 20 June 2024 7:00 P.M. Virtual**

The Third Thursday free webinar from GSP will be at 7:00 P.M. Eastern on June 20<sup>th</sup> using Zoom. Register here for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuduCgqjliHNNHCoKkx8A57bhUROnAPWK0w#/registration>. Martha Capwell will discuss "The Silk Industry in Eastern Pennsylvania: 1890-1990" about the region's silk mills and the women who worked there. For the first half of the 20th century, most communities in Pennsylvania, large or small, had at least one silk mill. Even after

the industry moved into the South, and later to Asia, many mills survived by making synthetic goods alongside silk.

From 1913 until 1930, more silk goods were produced in eastern Pennsylvania than anywhere else in the world. The silk industry offered the first industrial jobs for women, and in fact moved into the Commonwealth largely because of its human resources rather than its natural ones. The story of how and why silk played a large role in our region's history will be told with photographs that span the 20th century, including a video and photos that were taken in the last silk mill to operate in Allentown.

Martha Capwell Fox is the Historian for the National Canal Museum and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. She is the author of the industrial history of the D&L Corridor, *Geography, Geology, and Genius*. Previously, Martha presented three papers at Canal History and Technology Symposia: on the silk industry in the D&L Corridor.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Save these Dates for Upcoming Conferences

#### 2024 FEEFHS Eastern European Genealogy Conference

Salt Lake City, UT

In-Person

Tues. – Fri. 6-9 August 2024

Annual Conference

<https://feefhs.org/>

#### 44<sup>th</sup> 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

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Judi Boren, Programs  
Patty Robison, Programs  
John Francis, Secretary  
Rita Romig, Secretary  
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We welcome all interested individuals to our monthly meetings.

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