

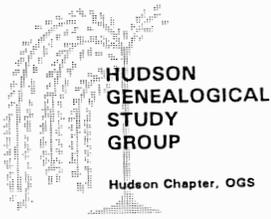
# THE HUDSON GREEN

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DECEMBER 2005

NEWSLETTER OF



## Hudson Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society

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## The Yankee-Pennamite Wars

By Elsie Thomas

These bloody skirmishes are little known today, but were a series of three battles that took place between citizens of Connecticut and Pennsylvania around the time of the American Revolution.

Pennamite was an early designation for settlers of Pennsylvania. Since Connecticut is a name difficult to hang an ending onto (Connecticuter?), those settlers were somewhat ambiguously called Yankees.

Because the rocky soil was poorly suited for farming in Connecticut and the population since the colony's founding had steadily increased, farmers had become interested in acquiring more and better land. Explorers who had traversed the land west of the Delaware River reported to Connecticut authorities the existence of a beautiful and fertile valley situated in northeastern Pennsylvania. Called the Wyoming Valley, it borders the north branch of the Susquehanna River, is about 20 miles long and three to four miles wide. In Delaware Indian dialect, the name *Maughwauwame* meant "Large Plains," anglicized to *Wyoming*.

So filled with praise for this valley were the reports—river bottom lands luxuriantly fertile, large stands of magnificent hardwood forests filled with game, numerous wild fruits and berries, and the river abounding with delicious varieties of fish—that many of the Connecticut settlers excitedly contemplated establishing a new colony there.

On July 18, 1758, a group of men met at Windham, CT, organized the Susquehanna Land Company, and purchased the land from the Iroquois Indians, who had jurisdiction over it. Connecticut Governor Wolcott approved the purchase, but when Governor Hamilton of Pennsylvania learned of it, he immediately advised against settlement by Connecticut citizens. To be on the safe side,

Hamilton purchased this same land from the Iroquois, who apparently had no qualms about accepting payment from both sides. The fact that it was a favorite, almost hallowed, stronghold of the Delawares seems not to have concerned either group.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, British kings, who with members of Parliament had only sketchy knowledge of the Crown's vast holdings in North America, granted broadly sweeping charters for the settlement of the colonies. Sometimes they overlapped, which is what happened in this instance. On March 4, 1681, King Charles II granted to William Penn a charter for all the land bounded on the east by the Delaware River, westward to the sea. But on April 23, 1661—19 years earlier—the same king had granted to the English Colony of Connecticut "all the land bordered by Narraganset Bay on the East, Massachusetts Colony on the north, and Long Island Sound on the south, extending to the Pacific."

Whereas the Pennsylvanians were quite aware of their entitlement, Connecticut settlers ignored theirs for more than a hundred years. During negotiations determining its boundary with New York, they proclaimed only that their western boundary was New York. With discovery of the Wyoming Valley, however, they remembered their earlier claim.

In British North America, three things were necessary for valid title to land: a charter from the Crown, purchase of the land from the Indians, and physical possession or settling on the land. Realizing this, the Yankees made haste to settle it. Initially they sent 40 men to the Valley to build log cabins and a blockhouse, which was named Forty Fort, planning for more settlers to join them as quickly as possible. (The small community of Forty Fort still exists.) The outraged Indians frequently harassed these settlers, killing individuals whenever opportunity

arose.

Not to be outdone, the governor of Pennsylvania encouraged settlement by Pennamites, who also erected cabins and a fortified blockhouse. The French and Indian War prevented any further attempt at settlement by either colony for awhile. Savage fighting continued, both the French and British enlisting help from Indians, until peace was finally concluded in 1763, with France yielding all the northern part of the continent to Great Britain.

During this period, both Connecticut and Pennsylvania vigorously tried to establish the legality of their claims. William Penn was long dead, his grandsons now governing the territory he had been granted, when about 200 Yankees entered the Valley. Under the leadership of a man named John Durkee, they built over 20 one-story log cabins surrounded by a wooden stockade named Fort Durkee in honor of their leader. Separately, a Yankee farmer, Zebulon Butler, came to establish a new life on good land. This man, who became a leader of the Yankees, tried to be a voice for moderation when tempers flared on both sides.

The Yankee settlement flourished as the men had brought wives and children, furniture and cattle herds. They enthusiastically tilled the remarkable soil, calling their new home Westmoreland. They petitioned the Connecticut legislature to admit the area as a county of Connecticut, which request was granted. So for a time a part of Pennsylvania theoretically belonged to Connecticut. This so angered the Penns that it led directly to the first Yankee-Pennamite War, which began in 1769 and continued into 1771. With loss of life on both sides, it was won by the determined Yankees, who by now outnumbered the Penns. Their numbers continually increased and they spread further into the Valley.

Meanwhile, a gang of ruffians called the Paxton Boys from Hanover Township, PA, led by a Lazarus Stewart, decided that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian." Their stated goal was to kill every Indian possible, man, woman or child. They murdered six friendly Indians living in the village of Conestoga, south of Lancaster, PA. When the remaining Indians, including women and children, were housed in the local jail for safety, this gang broke in and murdered them, too. The Governor of PA then declared Lazarus Stewart an "outlaw." Insulted, he decided to join forces with the Yankees.

In 1775, alarmed Pennamites enlisted the help of Indians angered by the loss of their valley and again attacked the Yankee fortifications. This time the Yankees

repelled them with the help of the Paxton Boys. Again, loss of life and wounded men resulted in this second Yankee-Pennamite battle. For a while, hostilities between the two warring factions ceased because this year also saw the start of the American Revolution.

While most of the inhabitants of the Wyoming Valley believed in the American cause of independence from Britain, there was a sizeable group called Tories who remained loyal to the King of England, now George III. As the war progressed, these Tories were driven out of the Valley. They joined other Tories and Indian bands, and in the summer of 1778, while many of the Yankee men were fighting the British elsewhere—some with George Washington—these bands, led by British officer John Butler, attacked the remaining settlers. The inhabitants, many of whom were old men, women and children, fled for safety to Forty Fort. Taunted by the hot-headed Lazarus Stewart to go outside the stockade to meet the foe head-on, Zebulon Butler reluctantly yielded, knowing his men were vastly outnumbered. The result was the slaughter of more than two-thirds of the settlers. Indians tortured many to their deaths, laid waste their cabins and burned crops in their fields. This was called the Wyoming

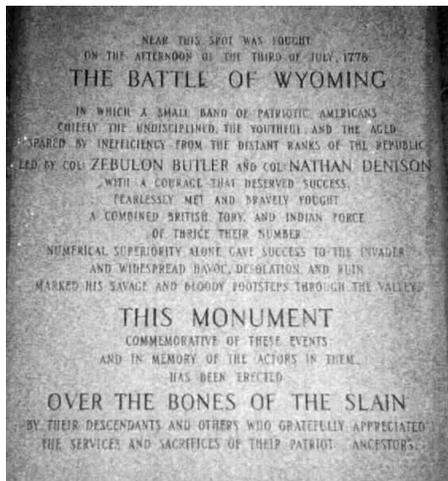


Massacre. A 60-foot monument stands in present-day Wyoming Township, PA listing names of those killed in the battle, as well as listing survivors. This horrible event was *not* part of the Yankee-Penn conflict, but an episode of the French and Indian War. Some narrators alleged that England offered a bounty to Indians for rebel scalps, which numbered around 227 from this one raid.

Pennsylvania appealed to Congress. In 1782 the Decree of Trenton was handed down by an appointed commission, stating that it was unlawful for one state to appropriate land in another. They awarded the land to Pennsylvania and the area was given the name Luzerne County of PA. But the determined Yankees, who had paid for and felt entitled to their farms, later returned to their former homes and refused to leave. This led to the third Yankee-Pennamite War in 1783-4. Finally the Penn government ended the matter by granting money to Pennsylvania residents to buy land to settle elsewhere, and the Yankees became citizens of the state of Pennsylvania.

If you have ancestors who settled in this part of Pennsylvania, it would be worthwhile to check into the names—the list too long to publish here--on the tall monument in Kingston, PA to see whether you can find

their names listed. Go into Google and type Wyoming Massacre to see these names.



Bibliography: *Zebulon Butler, Hero of the Revolutionary Frontier*, by James R. Williamson and Linda A. Fossler, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT.

*A History of Kingston, PA* by William Brewster, 1808-1811.

World Book Encyclopedia articles.

Several articles online—"Yankee-Pennamite Wars", "Decree of Trenton", "Wyoming Valley Massacre" and others. [Note: Details differ somewhat in various accounts.]

*The American Tory*, by William H. Nelson, published by Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 1992.

## Members of HGSG Visit Ohio Historical Society Library



On October 22, 2005, members of HGSG took a field trip to the Ohio Historical Society and Archives where they learned about available research materials including Ohio birth, marriage and death records; censuses; county histories; manuscripts; military rosters; newspapers; and more. Pictured are John and Betty Franklin, Bill Markley (staff member of OHS), President Jack Bowers and Helen Soblosky.



## President's Message

Hello again to all of our members. As you read this message, we are almost halfway through the program year. I believe that thus far the Chapter Program Committee has presented excellent programs. We have had one field trip—to the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. Gwen Mayer has presented two programs: one, an "Introduction to the Archives", which provided an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the resources available, the other, Reviewing Information Available on Census Records. Then we had a series of meetings led mainly by outside speakers: Tom Vince, Bob Keener, Lew Walker (although Lew is a member), Don Nichols, Gary & Diane Smith and Roger Marble. Each of these programs brought us valuable information. Regrettably, the Immigration Fair at East Woods School was cancelled by the School due to a commitment to studying to prepare for State mandated exams. Now we are preparing for our Annual Meeting and holiday gathering at the Wallace Murray home. Shortly, we will be celebrating Christmas, and another year will have passed.

We look forward to the balance of the programs to be presented during 2006. Again, the Program Committee has put together an excellent series of meetings. One of these will be a project led by Trudy Painting, which will have us interviewing veterans. Trudy will need many volunteers for this project, so please seriously consider stepping forward when she requests your help.

Now is not too early for thinking about programs for next year. We can use your input. Also, please provide your feedback on what you think of this year's programs. We welcome your ideas on how the chapter can improve programs.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Jack K. Bowers, President*

## Sunshine Chair



We remind everyone that Trudy Painting is our Sunshine chairperson. If you learn of any of our members being ill, please inform Trudy and she will send a card to that person on behalf of all of us.

## Thumbnail Sketches of Current HGSG Members



**Carol Golby**

Carol Golby has been attending HGSG sessions for several years, and reports she has found them informative and helpful. She feels that she had been handicapped in starting her research because of her inability to navigate on the Internet, but decided to take the plunge after helping out at the Immigration Fair last year.

When she first began her research, she said she thinks she tried to do too much at once. At one of our meetings, she remembers being cautioned to pursue one family at a time. Recently she posted queries on a message board and received excellent responses. One answer turned up a relative in Florida whose parents hosted the 1959 Kruse reunion at their home in Moreland Heights, OH; the Kruse Family is one of Carol's lines. They have established that they are either third or fourth cousins, related by either their great-grandfathers or g-g-grandfathers, who were brothers. Now she finds researching fun and is sorry it took her so long to get started.

One of her next steps will be a trip to Cleveland, to Woodland and Lakeview Cemeteries. She knows that the Kruses came from Germany to Cleveland, and stayed there. Good luck, Carol!

**Fran Scalise**



Fran became interested in genealogical research as a result of hearing stories of her mother's Scots/Irish families, the Doughertys, Murphys and McKears, when she was growing up. They were originally from Butler, PA, among the earliest settlers of western PA, and were said to have "fought the Indians."

Both of her parents recorded an audio tape of their family histories for my daughter's New Dimensions project in 1979. Her father's information on his Italian family, the Guidos, was particularly interesting.

Later Fran discovered genealogical resources on the Internet, but had no time to pursue them until five years ago. At that time, quite by accident, she found a relative on a genealogy site. That hooked her! She has found out a lot about both sides of her family. Her goal is to create an account for her children and grandchildren.

**Gwen Mayer**



Gwen is currently Acting Archivist at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. Her love of history prompted her to begin genealogical research. She says that when she hits a brick wall, what works best for her is leisurely reading the historic newspapers from places her ancestors had lived. It is possible to gain some direction from that.

Her biggest find was discovering that some of her ancestors had given her clues that she didn't, at first, recognize as such. One ancestor, in telling Gwen about her unpleasant journey from Germany, gave an important clue that took Gwen a long time to realize what was meant. An ancestor on her husband's line alluded to a second marriage in something he wrote, but again they didn't understand the reference until much later. So Gwen urges us to mull certain items over in our minds when doing research.

Above all, she urges, when you don't know how to proceed, consult others in HGSG, and maybe someone can help you.

**Phyllis Gatian**



Phyllis became interested in genealogy in the late 1970s when her mother got a request for her descendants from someone writing a book on the Crouthamel line in Pennsylvania. Crouthamel was her mother's maiden name. At that time, her mother began telling Phyllis about all the close relatives she knew, especially giving maiden names. Phyllis remembered to write down some of them, but wishes she had paid more attention and learned more from her mother, who died in 1982.

When Phyllis got a computer and Family Tree Maker in the 1990s, she began in earnest to record information she had. Several books have been written about some lines in her mother's family, with a new indexed one coming out soon. But Phyllis had more trouble learning about her father's family. She knew they came from Germany in 1883. She was then lucky enough to find her grandfather's naturalization record in Salt Lake City, and on the new Castle Gardens website, she learned from which towns her grandparents came. She is now looking for their marriage date there.

At yearly family reunions in W.VA., Phyllis got information from relatives and shared hers with them. She

(Continued from page 4)

regrets that she doesn't get to as many of our meetings as formerly, but urges everyone not to procrastinate on researching and record-keeping.

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## Elissa Scalise Powell To The Rescue

Our member Pam Turner-Taylor passed this story along to us which appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on 25 October 2005, written by Dennis B. Roddy. We present an abbreviated version:

Donald Leckey, an engineer who currently lives in Michigan, had done years of genealogical research and came up with the fact that his great-great-grandparents, Henry Leckey and wife Mary, were buried in Sandyvale Cemetery, Johnstown, PA, not far from Pittsburgh. This cemetery, built on the site of a former farm, had opened in 1856.

As is widely known, Johnstown was the scene of a horrific flood in 1889 that killed more than 2000 people and caused considerable property damage when the [South Fork Dam] located above the city burst. The town experienced two lesser floods with additional loss of life and property damage, one in 1936, the other in 1977, despite the Army Corps of Engineers having built a wall to withstand floods. Although many records were lost, the Leckey records were among those saved in an office on higher ground. The records confirmed that the couple had been buried in this almost abandoned cemetery.

One day last October, Mr. Leckey and his wife, a physician, were walking through Sandyvale Cemetery seeking a Leckey grave marker, although they had scant hope of finding one, when to their great joy they came across an overturned column inscribed as follows:

Henry Leckey, April 11, 1821, April 4, 1896

Mary Leckey, his wife, October 18, 1817, October 21, 1882

Elated, the Leckeyes sought information on the cemetery. They learned that it was about to be turned into a memorial park, complete with a pond, gardens, and a recreation area for children. Mr. Leckey decided he could not have his g-g-grandparents buried under all of that, so he would have the bodies exhumed and moved elsewhere. Together with his attorney brother Ed Leckey, they prepared to try to meet the legal requirement that any direct

descendant of the couple must be given an opportunity to object to the exhumation.

They hired Pittsburgh area genealogist **Elissa Scalise Powell**, a name very familiar to most HGSG members because Ms. Powell has addressed our group on several occasions. Her assignment was to help the brothers find these descendants, and find them she did—all 212 of them! The brothers made many phone calls and sent out more than 180 letters asking these people to show up in court if they objected to having their ancestors disinterred. They had replies from many states indicating that no one objected.

After that, they hired two brothers with a backhoe to exhume what was left of the bodies and transport them and their grave marker to Grandview Cemetery on higher ground in suburban Johnstown. A newly discovered relative came to court on the day appointed for finalizing the proceedings. Mrs. Jean Brehm of Euclid, OH, who wanted to meet them, brought the brothers a photograph of Johann Heinrich Leckey—Henry's original name when he came from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany—taken with his sons as the family arrived. The Leckey brothers were thrilled. Donald Leckey, who had spent \$17,000 on the project, said, "This might have been the best find of all. This was worth everything!" Then he added, "Do you know what Elissa said to me? She said, 'I think they wanted you to find them.'"

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## A Tangle of Homonyms, Quite!

Sources we urge you to **cite**,  
But you know it wouldn't be **right**  
If you were to spell it as **site**,  
And don't ever define it as **sight**.

**E.T.**

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## WRHS NEW HOURS

The Western Reserve Historical Society has changed their hours starting November 2, 2005. The Library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES



By Gwendolyn Mayer

Celebrating Akron's History in Picture Postcards  
Introductory Guide to Swiss Genealogical Research  
Records of the Regiments of the South Carolina Line  
in the Revolutionary War  
Magna Carta Ancestry  
Early Landowners of PA: Land Tracts Transferred  
from VA to PA 1779-1780  
Early Landowners of PA: Atlas of Township  
Warrantee Maps of Fayette Co., PA  
Collins' Historical Sketches of Kentucky (2 vols.)  
Norwegian Immigrants to the U.S.; A Biographical  
Directory 1825-1850 (2 vols.)  
The Jacobite Peerage  
The Balliol Roll  
County Longford and Its People  
The Golden Bridge-Young Immigrants to Canada  
1833-1939  
Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series  
German American Family Records in the Fraktur  
Tradition (3 vols.)  
Plantagenet Ancestry  
Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of  
Independence  
Mayflower Families Through Five Generations-  
William Bradford  
Pennsylvania German Frakturs in the Library of  
Congress  
The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the  
German-Americans (6 vols.)  
Vital Records in Ontario Before 1869  
SAR Revolutionary War Patriots vol. 2  
Hoagland and Collins: A Family History  
Genealogies of Pascoe, Scheid, Maunus of Welsh,  
German, Finnish Descent  
Barnes-Ralph: Seasons Gone By-Colonial America  
to 2000  
National Society Colonial Dames, 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
Ancestor Roster 1915-2000

## Hudson



## Tidbits

**From the Enterprise**  
**Published Every Saturday Morning**  
**By G.G. Guilford**  
**Personals-Hudson, January 10, 1880**

Miss Lollie Fowler is spending a few days with friends in Clarion, PA.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Osborn are visiting friends in Michigan.

Miss Grace Dunbar returned to her studies at Lake Erie Seminary, Monday last.

Joseph Avery, of Brecksville, spent last Saturday among friends in town.

December 29<sup>th</sup>, at Macedonia, a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Chamberlain.

John McPhail, who has been residing at Coshocton for several months past, spent the holidays among Hudson friends.

Mrs. Joseph Blackman returned on Monday from a two weeks' visit to her daughter, Mrs. Ketchum, in Portsmouth, O.

President Cutler will preach at the Presbyterian Church, sixth Ward, Akron, on Sunday next.

Mr. Frank Osborn, who has been engaged for the past month in the telegraph office at the Union Depot, Cleveland, returned home last week.

### The Hudson Green Editorial Board

Editor.....Elsie Thomas  
Layout.....John Franklin  
Archives Acquisitions.....Gwen Mayer  
Membership.....Pamela Turner-Taylor  
Mailing.....Cole Waite

## Hudson Genealogical Study Group Publications

- #1. *The 1860 Mortality Schedule for Summit County, Ohio*. Complete listing of Summit County, Ohio residents listed in the Federal Mortality Schedule conducted in June, 1860. 4 pp. \$5.50.
- #2. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: December 31, 1903-April 7, 1910*. Includes all information from Book 1 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. 23 pp. \$9.00.
- #3. *Hudson, Ohio Deaths: 1868-1908*. Alphabetical listing of deaths in Hudson, Summit County, Ohio from 1868 through 1908 extracted from the microfilm of the Index to Probate Records of Wills, Deaths, and Births on file at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. It includes those listed as having died in Hudson, been born in Hudson and died in Ohio, and those with no indication of place of death as well as deaths at the Summit County Infirmary. 25 pp. \$9.50.
- #4. *St. Mary's Cemetery, Hudson (Summit County) Ohio--1858 through 14 May 1988*. Information from Sexton's Records and a lot-by-lot survey, with surname index. 26 pp. \$9.50.
- #5. *Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Centennial anniversary reprint with an every name index of this classic illustrated atlas. Oversized, over 200 pp. \$90.00 plus \$4.50 postage and handling. Fewer than 80 copies remain of this limited edition. Copies of individual pages also available at \$5.00 per page. State page(s) desired.
- #6. *Index to Historical Reminiscences of Summit County* by Gen. Lucius V. Bierce, 1854. An every-name index to Summit County's first county history compiled by Connie S. Ferguson. 5 pp. \$5.50.
- #7. Reprint of William B. Doyle's *Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, 1908, with a complete, new index compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 1,186 pp. \$68.50 plus \$5.00 postage and handling.
- #8. *Transcription and Index of 1920 Federal Population Census, Summit County, Ohio for Hudson Village and Hudson Township* compiled by members of HGSG. 88 pp. \$17.50.
- #9. *Inscriptions and Index to Markillie Cemetery, Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG. 84 pp. plus maps. \$17.50.
- #10. *Inscriptions and Index to Locust Grove Cemetery, Twinsburg, Ohio* compiled by Jeffrey Alan Mills. 68 pp. \$17.50.
- #11. *Inscriptions and Index to Maplelawn Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG \$17.50
- #12. *Index to Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Compiled by Connie S. Ferguson, CGRS, 50 pp. \$10.50
- #13. *Index to "Doyle's" 1908 Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 71 pp. \$14.50.
- #14. *1870 Portage County, Ohio Federal Population Census; An Every Name Index*. Compiled by members of HGSG, 282 pp. \$39.50
- #15. *Index to Olin's Akron and Environs*. Edited and compiled by James F. Caccamo, 40 pp. \$15.00
- #16. *Inscriptions and Index to Stow Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, \$32.00
- #17. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: April 8, 1910 - March 22, 1922*. Includes all information from Book 2 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. Compiled by Gwendolyn E. Mayer. 47 pp. includes index. \$15.50
- #18. *Information About People Who Served in W.W. II from Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)*. Compiled by Jennifer Rummel. Extractions of military and genealogical information submitted to the Hudson Library & Historical Society. 155 pp. includes index. \$24.50
- #19. *Inscriptions and Index to Fairview Cemetery, Boston Heights, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, 64 pp includes index. \$15.50
- #20 *Index to the 1900 Federal Population Census of Summit County, Ohio; A Head of Household Index*. Compiled by members of HGSG, 209 pp. \$29.50

All publications except #5 and #7 are postpaid. Ohio residents should add sales tax for all publications. Please enclose payment with your order payable to Hudson Genealogical Study Group.

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Dec. 10th Meeting

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"Sharing Your Genealogical Data Electronically" by Roger Marble.

Mr. Marble is an engineer, former president of the Summit County Chapter of OGS, is an OGS Trustee, and was Co-Program Chairman of the April OGS Conference held in Akron.

Roger always brings us a useful message.

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Next Meetings

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Please note that the Immigration Fair, scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, has been cancelled because of student testing.

Dec. 10 9:30 a.m. "Sharing Your Genealogical Data Electronically" by Roger Marble.

Dec. 17 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting and holiday gathering at the Murray home.

Jan. 14 9:30 a.m. "Discovering Jewish Origins" by Pam Turner-Taylor.