



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

September 2013

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Saturday, September 21, 2013** **Time:** **9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

Place: **Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014**

Program: **GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR**

The morning session will feature *Rebecca Whitman-Koford*.

“RESEARCHING YOUR WAR OF 1812 ANCESTOR plus THE PRESERVE THE PENSIONS PROJECT”

This topic covers the myriad of records available online and offline to researchers looking for their “Second Revolution” Patriots be they army, volunteer army, or navy. It focuses heavily on the resources available at the National Archives and discusses ongoing digitization projects, especially those records related to the War of 1812-1814 soldiers.

and

“GRANDMA WHERE ART THOU?”

This class discusses genealogical techniques that help focus your research on female ancestors, with emphasis on ways to utilize the concept of cluster genealogy. Use of all of these techniques will be demonstrated in a case study that provides examples to reinforce your understanding.

The afternoon session will feature *Julia Coldren-Walker*.

“YOU BETTER WATCH OUT: OMISSIONS, ERRORS & FRAUD”

A look at the problems with published genealogies and original documents including omissions of significant information, mistakes in transcriptions and abstracts, plus typical errors in documents like censuses, court proceedings, and obituaries. Examples of estate scams, fraudulent lineages, and fraudulent documents are also displayed and discussed. In conclusion, she presents ways to protect you from being taken-in and encourages us to verify all information.

and

“NEWSPAPER RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET.”

Newspaper research in genealogy is both challenging and rewarding. This lecture will address newspaper research on the Internet and its growing importance and will include discussions of proper search techniques and unusual methods of researching. It will also describe the vital records and personal information that can be gleaned from newspapers and analyze the use of newspapers as evidence and their possible pitfalls.

REGISTER TO LET US KNOW YOU WANT A SEAT. HCGS members: FREE; Non-members: \$20; Students (bring your school ID): \$10. Seating is limited. Bring your own brown-bag lunch. Light refreshments and drinks provided to keep you going and to encourage mingling. Check [our website](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgsg/meetings.htm) for time changes <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgsg/meetings.htm> and a [Seminar Registration form \(PDF\)](#)

Come learn from the experts, and invite friends to join in the experience.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Spring & Fall

We hold two general program meetings per year, usually at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc.,
143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our big event for 2013, the [Genealogical Seminar](#), will be held this month on Saturday the 21st at [The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.](#) Headquarters building, [143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD](#). Rebecca Koford has indicated that she has reworked her War of 1812 talk, so if you have heard an earlier version, you will be getting some different information at this event.

It was the hope of the board that this larger, all day event would draw better membership attendance than the Society had experienced at the bi-monthly meetings held in previous years. Based on current registrations, this event may be attended slightly better than our previous meetings, but far short of our hopes. Unless there is a significant “walk-in” crowd, this leaves the board with the quandary “we are obviously doing something wrong.”

One thing that I have heard, more than once in recent months, is the desire to have access to the Historical Society in the evening. As the Genealogical Society only “controls” a fraction of the building’s contents, a productive visit for researchers would involve much more than our organization. That said, I would like to hear from the membership ... is this something worth starting a discussion with HSHC?

Never-the-less, we have started to talk about programs for 2014. The board has discussed a couple of interesting places in the county for our traditional spring outing (sans the box lunch, if you recall), but an idea for a bus trip to D.C. to visit the [D.A.R. Library](#) or the [National Archives](#) (NARA) or the [Library of Congress](#) (LOC) was floated ... what are your thoughts about this? Obviously this would be a more complex trip to “make happen” than we have traditionally done in the past.

Bill Cosby is credited with saying “I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.” Without your input the board does not know if we are pleasing anybody.

- Doug

2013-2014 HCGS DIRECTORY

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National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair

Tue & Wed September 3 & 4, 2013

All day at
YOUR HOUSE

Dress Code: Casual PJ's

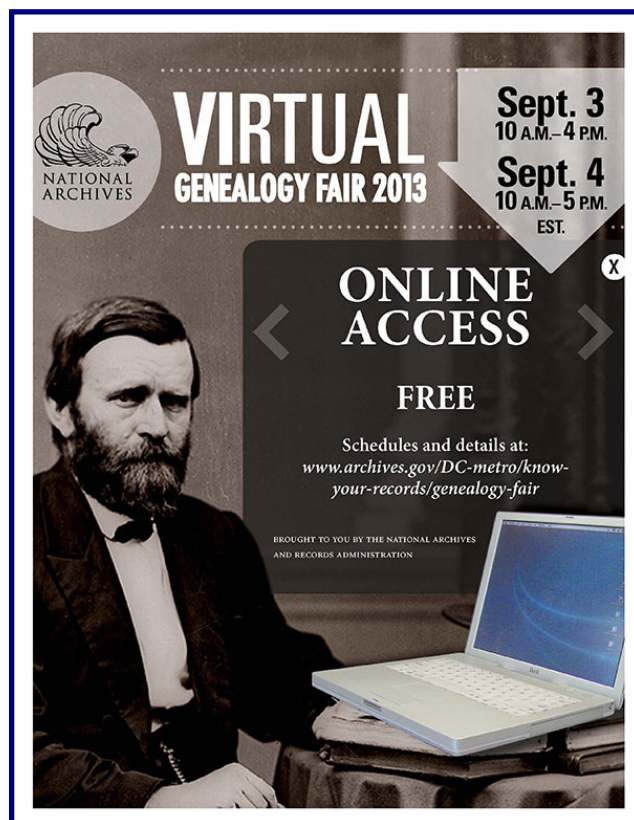
See online announcement and other details at:

<http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/>

Videos play best when internet download speeds exceed 2 Mbps.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Time EDT	#	Tuesday Lecture Titles	#	Wednesday Lecture Titles
10AM	1	Introduction to Military Records at the National Archives	7	Genealogy and the Freedman's Bank: Records of the Freedman's Savings & Trust Company
11AM	2	Introduction to Genealogy: Civilian	8	Military and Civilian Personnel Records: The National Archives at St. Louis
12PM	3	Alien Files (A-Files)	9	Union Civil War Pension Files
1PM	4	Native American Records	10	Federal Penitentiary Records
2PM	5	National Archives Online Resources for Genealogy	11	Finding U.S. Colored Troops at the National Archives
3PM	6	Immigration/Naturalization & Citizenship	12	Navy Deck Logs
4PM	x	-- no 4 PM Tuesday Lecture --	13	Oh, The Stories They Tell: Chinese Exclusion Acts Case Files at the National Archives & Records



Lectures: This two-day program showcases tips and techniques for using Federal records at the National Archives for genealogy research. Lectures are designed for experienced genealogy professionals and novices alike.



PRESERVE THE PENSIONS WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Files in the National Archives are being digitized and placed online for FREE! A Bicentennial project led by the Federation of Genealogical Societies in conjunction with Fold3, Ancestry.com and the National Archives. Help make this \$3.7M dollar project a reality by the end of the War of 1812 Bicentennial in 2015!

To take an image of each pension page costs approximately .45 cents. Every dollar you contribute preserves two images of these precious documents for future generations. In addition, Ancestry.com has generously offered to match all contributions, so now each dollar contributed will digitize four pages. With 7.2 million images, there is much to do and you can help us make a difference!

IF YOU...

- Love history and its precious records
- Have an ancestor who served in the War
- Support historical records being made available for FREE
- Believe in preserving the history of the United States of America
- Are a friend of the National Archives of the United States
- Support public or private partnerships in government to reduce taxes
- Want your children and grand-children to have a meaningful historical experience

THEN JOIN US in this effort to Preserve the Pensions and honor the memory of the 180,000 soldiers who served in the War of 1812. If donating in memory of a specific individual or soldier, please share that name.

Send us your \$25, \$45, \$100, \$250, or \$500 gift today!

To *contribute* online or to *learn* more go to:
www.preservethepensions.org
Or mail your tax deductible contributions
payable to: FGS-War of 1812, PO Box 200940,
Austin, TX 78720-0940

To *view* the *FREE* images already online, go to:
go.fold3.com/1812pensions/

Please consider helping our Society by becoming an Advisor at Large and volunteering to assist us with providing programs and projects valuable to our members.
-Contact Doug Washburn, President.

GENEALOGY FEATURE

Good Research Practice

When you run into a genealogical brick-wall are you skeptical enough to question how you got here? Do you ponder about the accuracy of your work, as well as the accuracy of the information used to build this path to this person? Well, if you are in this game for the joy of the hunt, and do not care if you get a deer or a skunk or nothing at all, then do not fret, and do not be embarrassed if your relatives point out errors in your results. Errors are everywhere because people make mistakes, repeat false facts uttered by others, and say anything to avoid admitting their lack of knowledge.

The best way to avoid errors is to try to cite every important fact with at least two different sources. If you do this then you will have the ability to take the next step in evaluating the goodness of the facts you possess.

The [Board for the Certification of Genealogists](#) (BCG) developed a process, in the late 1990's called the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS), that when used correctly, results in sound research. The GPS, the five elements, are officially codified in the [BCG Genealogical Standards Manual](#) (Orem, UT: Ancestry, 2000: 1-2). Christine Rose, created the small text [Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case](#), (San Jose, CA: CR Publications [self published], 2009), that provides practical lessons in how to apply the Standard to your work.

My view is that the first two elements set the foundation in place when applied to every fact you uncover.

- Conduct a reasonably exhaustive search and keep a log of not just where you found a fact, but everywhere you looked.
- Make a complete and accurate citation of your sources that state or contradict a fact. Use at least two different sources to corroborate the accuracy of the fact.

By adhering to the first two elements almost every one of your important facts will have been substantiated, and will withstand the tests of time and audits. The remaining three elements come into play when a fact differs between two sources. These elements deal with how to resolve differences by evaluating each source and documenting your thought process or argument as to what facts are more true than others. Research Logs and citations on Family Group sheets, are the keys to capturing the evidence that your work is robust and accurate. When you have done this accurately, neatly, orderly, and thoroughly, people will take you and your research seriously.

Research librarians and fellow genealogists will recognize this thoroughness, and will be more likely to help you move forward or solve problems. The quick and dirty approach, or outright copying of the work of another person, screams of incompetence and recklessness about the truth.

You are urged to read more about the Genealogical Proof Standard, and start incorporating the beginning steps into your routine practices. Do not let yourself be overwhelmed by terms like:

- Original versus Derivative Sources
- Primary versus Secondary Information
- Direct versus Indirect Evidence

These terms will become more apparent and the differences more understandable as you implement the initial elements of the GPS processes, then start to evaluate conflicts and possible errors in the information you found. As conflicts or problems arise into the *lime-light*, the other three elements can be studied and mixed into your *tool-bag* of research methods. Do not become bogged down in trying to understand data correlation or proof statements and proof arguments. You need to practice building the foundations of GPS before using what you found to establish the value or most likely answer.

The GPS can be overwhelming at first glance, so start with the foundation and build on your successes. Your rewards will be in research you can be extremely proud of, and solutions to many of your brick wall issues.

Richard Appel

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Genetic Genealogy

Genetic genealogy gives genealogists a means to check or supplement their genealogy results with information obtained via DNA testing. A positive test match with another individual may: verify existing research, establish that two surname variants are related, provide locations for further genealogical research, help determine the ancestral homeland, discover living relatives, confirm, or deny suspected connections between families, plus prove or disprove theories regarding ancestry.

To learn more visit the International Society of Genetic Genealogy website. Their “/wiki/Genetic_genealogy” page is very informative. http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy

Research Logs

Research Logs show where you plan to search, where you have searched, which searches succeeded together with where your copies are located, as well as what failed to yield any results. To help you *document as you go*, watch these two FamilySearch.org videos:

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/research-logs-part-1/142> (21 min.) &

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/research-logs-part-2/143> (24 min.)

Scanning Documents

All of us should be making copies of our source materials as evidence that it existed, and is available for a second look, for the things we were not seeking. Most have used paper copiers and file those copies for future use. For those of use who scan items, there are a few steps a few and settings in the scanner software that are recommended:

- Clean the scanner bed glass by spraying into a soft cloth not the glass, then wiping the glass surface with that damp cloth.
- Every year check the underside of the glass, and clean if necessary. It is painful to disassemble, so evaluate the trouble and risk before cleaning.
- Check and clean the back of images before scanning, so as to not damage your clean lid.
- Use a clear sacrificial piece of thin glass on the bed when scanning tin-type photographs or other sharp or dirty objects that could scratch the glass.
- Use a black backing-paper to avoid having the reverse-side printing bleed through the image.
- Avoid positioning quality photo-images close to the edges of the bed, where the focus falls off. Use a business card to space the original away from an edge, while keeping it parallel.
- Set the scan resolution to 300 dpi and scan at 100% full scale, but not more than 150%.
- Do not use the software provide with the scanner to Sharpen an image, use a PhotoShop type program to perform this edit.
- Only set Descreening ON when scanning offset printed images (those with a visible dot pattern) common to newspapers.
- Always scan to a .TIF/.TIFF file and keep the original unaltered. Edited images need to be saved to a new filename for safety and protection, as well as loss of resolution. Avoid .JPG files, because they recompress the data after any alterations, thereby decreasing the image resolution.
- Always set the Image Type to 24-bit Color, to provide 2 extra channels of data. Image Types can be altered in PhotoShop type programs if Black & White or Grayscale is desired for the image copy.
- Multiple Marques can be set in the Preview window when originals are small, so that all images can be quickly scanned in one pass with each image put into a separate file.

Tips from: Eric Basir <http://PhotoGrafix.pro>

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

GENEALOGY CIRCLE at the State Library Resource Center -Upcoming events

Place: **Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Library: [400 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD](#) 2nd floor, POE Rm FREE** For information call Maryland Dept 410-396-5468 or e-mail: mdx@prattlibrary.org

Date: **14 Sep 2013** (Sat) 10:00am-12noon Program: **Document Preservation**

"Simple Measures: Preserving Family Records and Other Valuable Documents" - Best practices for preserving paper-based materials and objects: books, paper documents, photographs and more. Topics will include: proper storage and handling methods/techniques, appropriate environmental issues, and disaster preparedness. Martha Edgerton is a Preservation Expert and Book Conservator with over 38 years of experience. Martha has worked at the Johns Hopkins University as a Book Conservator and as supervisor of the Enoch Pratt Free Library's Bindery department.

Date: **09 Nov 2013** (Sat) 10:00am-12noon Program: **Brick Wall Session**

Ancestors you just can't find? Where do you look when your research seems to have come to a standstill? Attend our brick wall session, for those who have genealogy searches that have them stumped. Learn from fellow genealogist's research. Discuss your challenges or help others solve them by sharing your successful strategies and favorite tools. The more who attend, the more likely we are to find solutions.

Harford County Genealogical Society -Seminar

Date: **21 Sep 2013** (Sat) 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Place: **The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters,
[143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014](#)**

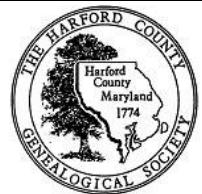
Registration: Pre-event-Registration open now. **Members FREE**, non-members \$20, Students \$10. Seating is limited. See also our website MEETING INFO page

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/meetings.htm>

Program: Four one-hour seminars. Rebecca Koford- **"RESEARCHING YOUR WAR OF 1812 ANCESTOR & THE PRESERVE THE PENSIONS PROJECT"** and **"GRANDMA WHERE ART THOU?"**.

In the afternoon, Julia Coldren-Walker- **"YOU BETTER WATCH OUT: OMISSIONS, ERRORS & FRAUD"** and **"NEWSPAPER RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET."**

Bring your own brown-bag lunch. Light refreshments and drinks provided.



2013 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy Workshop

Date: **12 October 2013** (Sat) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Place: **Baltimore Maryland Stake, [120 Stemmers Run Rd, Essex, MD 21221](#)**
(nr MD702 & MD150)

Registration: Registration for Workshops recommended. OPENS in SEPTEMBER **No cost !**

Program: Save the date and look for details www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org

FREE



2013 The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Conference

Date: **05 October 2013** (Sat)

Place: **Holiday Inn & Conference Center,
[2000 Loucks Rd \(PA74 & US30\) York, PA 17408](#)**

Registration: See: <http://www.magsgen.com> for details and flyer *in August*.

Program: **New Sources for Mid-Atlantic Germans**

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| James Beidler: | Searching for a Pennsylvania German Ancestor |
| Beth Levitt: | Introduction to the National Archives in Philadelphia |
| Patrick Connelly: | Introduction to the National Archives in New York City |
| James Beidler: | Finding a European Village of Origin |



2014 National Genealogical Society ConferenceDate: **7-10 May 2014** (Wed-Sat) +Bus tour on Tuesday May 6thPlace: **Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel,
403 N Third St, Richmond VA 23219.**Registration: online later this year at: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>Contact: conference@ngsgenealogy.org or 1-800-473-0060

Program: **Virginia: The First Frontier**, will explore the records and history that draw so many back to their roots in the Old Dominion. Lecture topics will also include migration into, within, and out of the region down the Great Wagon Road, over the Appalachian Mountains, and across the south to Texas and beyond. Save the date! See online Program brochure at:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014 Announcement Brochure.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014%20Announcement%20Brochure.pdf).

City Directories Online

Many Maryland City Directories are available online at the University of Maryland Library. <http://lib.guides.umd.edu/MDcitydirectories> All City Directories have been digitized and are fully searchable. They can be viewed online or downloaded in multiple formats.

Harford County Directories are available for specific years as follows:

Aberdeen	1966, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1979
Bel Air	1967, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978
Havre de Grace	1966, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1979
Harford County	1953

KEEPING IN TOUCH

For the latest information see our HCGS website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/	We also post our upcoming events on the BelAirPatch http://BelAir.Patch.com/events
“Like” our  at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989	And on  www.DaggerPress.com
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  http://groups.yahoo.com </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> HaCoGenSoc: <i>Join us after receiving your invitation.</i> </div> </div>	

FUTURE HCGS MEETING

Our Society has planed an all-day Genealogical Seminar on Saturday Sept 21, 2013 from **9:00 am** to 3:30 pm at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

There will be four one-hour seminars given by well known genealogical lecturers that will share some of their expertise and experiences with the audience. Please plan on attending and bring some friends.

See our Newsletters, our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/meetings.htm or other online venues, Facebook, BelairPatch, The_Dagger, and our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo!Group, for the latest information.