



# Penn in Hand

The Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania ❖ Vol. XXIX No. 4 Summer 2012

## GSP Genealogists Surprise a Reporter about Her Grandfather's Place in Jazz Music History



Carl Warwick holds his daughter, Cheryl, who is Shannon McDonald's mother. On the wall are photographs from the days when he played with jazz greats.

By Shannon McDonald  
*NewsWorks Feed Blogger, WHYY*

The first time I heard my grandfather play the trumpet, he'd been dead almost nine years.

I used iTunes, barely a blip on America's cultural radar when my grandfather died in 2003, to find "Goosey Gander," a song he performed with Woody Herman in the lifetime before he married my grandmother.

Carl "Bama" Warwick was born in Alabama in 1917. I came along in 1987 and only ever knew Bama as "Pop-pop," my mother's father. We were close in the way a grandparent and grandchild are. We saw each other at least once a week.

To me, he was a dark-skinned guy who'd grown up in New York City, dabbled in the

music scene, and then settled down with a family. How wrong I was, and how much I wish I'd known more about him when he was still alive.

I came to the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in an unconventional way. I was seeking answers about my family, and it was all to be documented for television. Through a grant handed down from WNET in New York and the Finding Your Roots project, my boss at WHYY in Philadelphia hand-selected me to research my family history to prove what I thought true at the time—that my mother's father was Native American and that my father, despite having the last name McDonald, is not Irish. Again, how wrong I was.

I learned a bit about my family as my parents and aunts dug out old photos, labeling the sepia-colored ones with Post-it notes for me to help complete my family pedigree chart. My brother and I swabbed our DNA to be sent to a lab for analysis, and I returned to my usual routine until I got word from the GSP's Joyce Homan that not only had the researchers found some stuff on my family, but they'd also found some truly amazing things.

At a table tucked into shelves and shelves of records at the National Archives center in Philadelphia, my co-workers shined bright camera lights on me as I sat with Joyce and researcher Anita Sheahan Coraluzzi. I tried not to look completely overwhelmed as document after document was put before me that detailed my family's journey.

Is my grandfather Native American? We hit a stumbling block there, as researchers in Alabama were too entrenched in current projects to dig further. There's no evidence of that being the case in my

DNA, meaning my grandfather, Carl "Bama" Warwick, had either lived a lie or that any Native American genes my family might have been washed away through time and procreation.

But what the GSP researchers did find makes everything else unimportant. There, in front of me on a table, was a photo of my grandfather. With Dizzy Gillespie. With Quincy Jones. With Charlie Shavers. "Like brothers," is how Gillespie described my grandfather in a book, which I hadn't known existed until Anita pointed it out. My grandparents' tattered address book confirmed: "Diz" and wife Lorraine were in its pages.

And the information just came pouring out, all backed up with documentation I'd have never been able to find myself in the massive Archives building.

There was Bama's birth certificate, with the word, "Negro," on it. There was his mother's death certificate, confirming the suicide I'd heard about, in addition to the details of the extreme measures she'd taken to end a life marked by prejudice and fear.

And the McDonalds didn't come away empty-handed, either. Birth, death, and census records confirmed a tight bond between my great-grandfather and his grandparents, who had crossed the McDonald name off the boy's birth certificate to show dissatisfaction with the man who impregnated their daughter.

I scrolled through microfilm to see the arrival of my family in America and their path across Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

*Jazz Musician cont'd on inside right panel*

# Continuing Genealogical Education: What Are Your Options?



Instructors at a September course at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh answer questions from the students. From left to right are Josh Taylor, John Humphrey, Paula Stewart Warren, and Tom Jones.

By Anita Sheahan Coraluzzi  
GSP Associate Director

Anyone engaged in family history research realizes that you must be able to explain findings in a logical, coherent manner. Without these skills, the documents risk becoming so many unrelated, unorganized pieces of paper with questions unanswered.

Most of us begin our education by attending lectures, seminars, and workshops offered by local organizations. But there comes a time when you're ready for more.

Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, UT, offers a BA in Family History. <http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2011-2012ucat/departments/History/FamHistoryMajor.php#>

You might opt for a university-sponsored institute requiring about one week. The programs offer a week focused on genealogy with a certificate upon completion and prime opportunities to network among peers.

Your motivation to gain sound genealogical research practices can fulfill a personal goal for your own family research, help you understand better what is needed to accept clients, and set you on a course for certification. See Board for Certification of Genealogists, [www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org).

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) is held for one week annually every January in Salt Lake City and is sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Association. Registration for SLIG opens in June. The institute offers researchers a choice of 10–12 tracks of study. Costs average \$400 plus travel and hotel. [www.infouga.org](http://www.infouga.org)

Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) is held for one week every June at Samford University in Birmingham,

AL. IGHR offers researchers 10–12 tracks of study. Registration opens in January. Tracks can be filled within minutes of being offered. Costs average \$400–\$500 plus travel and hotel/campus housing. <http://www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr/>

National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR), held July in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD, focuses on records of federal collections held by the National Archives and Records Administration. Costs average \$350–\$400 plus travel and hotel. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~natgenin>

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) offers four courses at La Roche College near Pittsburgh. Plans are for future sessions in July at La Roche with expanded course offerings. Costs average \$380–\$400 plus travel and hotel/campus housing. <http://www.gripitt.org/>

Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research is offered at the Boston University Charles River Campus for three sessions each year: spring, summer, and fall. Each session runs for a one-week semester. Registration costs \$2,695 plus three required books at about \$150. This same course is also offered online. (See next entry.) <http://professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy/>

Boston University Online Certificate in Genealogical Research is offered online with three sessions each year, spring (January), summer (May), fall (September) and runs a full 15-week semester. Students should be prepared to dedicate a minimum of 14 hours per week to course work. Registration costs \$2,695, plus three required books at about \$150. See <http://professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy/online/> or phone Carri Scott, 877-290-9005.

Boston University offers one-week, on-campus, single advanced course modules during the summer months at the BU Charles River campus. These courses currently cost \$795 each and are taught by well-known genealogical lecturers.

Many programs offer scholarships.

NGS American Genealogy: Home Study Course of the National Genealogical Society offers a “work at your own pace” program that contains 16 lessons on CDs. You can buy the CDs and learn on your own or

choose to submit your work for review and grading with written feedback from expert genealogists. The full three-CD package with grading option is \$475 for NGS members and \$565 for non-members. [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/homestudy\\_course\\_cd](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/homestudy_course_cd)

Professional Genealogists Home Study Course, (ProGen) is based on principals found in *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. It features “collaborative learning” with study groups mentored and guided by certified genealogists. There is an approximate 18-month time commitment. Costs are \$95, scholarship available, plus a \$60 required book. <http://progenstudy.org/>

Boston University Online Genealogical Essentials Course, similar in content to the NGS Home Study Course, is offered on the same start dates as the Genealogical Research Certificate program; however, this course runs for four weeks. Students should be prepared to dedicate a minimum of 7–10 hours per week to course work. Registration is \$775, plus two books at about \$50. See <http://professional.bu.edu/programs/genealogy/online/> or phone Carri Scott, 877-290-9005.

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, affiliated with the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, offers a wide variety of online courses from a single refresher course to a full-complement program. Courses are ongoing and cover numerous subjects, locations (US and overseas), and skill levels, with various course packages.

Fees vary on study programs chosen, i.e., the “American Certificate in Genealogical Studies” requires 40 courses to complete and costs \$2,850. *Analysis and Skills Mentoring Program, Part 1* course is \$160. <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>

Elissa Scalise Powell, CG(SM), CGL(SM), suggests free opportunities at [http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/APG/Choosing\\_the\\_Best\\_Continuing\\_Education\\_Opportunities/Player.html](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/APG/Choosing_the_Best_Continuing_Education_Opportunities/Player.html). ❖

See Pat O'Donnell Kuhn's article at the bottom of the next column for her personal experience with online learning.

# Blair County Genealogical Society Holds Valuable Records for Southcentral Pennsylvania



The Blair County Genealogical Society draws family historians looking for records.

By Scott Troutman  
BCGS Publicity Chairman

The Blair County Genealogical Society, located at 431 Scotch Valley Road in Hollidaysburg, is a rich source of genealogical information for the central and southwestern parts of Pennsylvania.

Its Roller-Hojeth Memorial Library holds over 30,000 books and thousands of rolls of microfilm and serves as a depository for the Blair County Courthouse.

The most heavily used section of the library is the obituary collection. Obituaries have been clipped and indexed and feature obituaries from the *Altoona Mirror* (currently from about 1900–present), *Martinsburg Cove Herald* (1895–present) and long runs of the *Tyrone Herald*, *Bedford Gazette*, and other newspapers from Bedford, Cambria, Clearfield, Somerset, and Indiana counties. For years where the newspapers haven't been clipped, the library has microfilm of the newspapers.

*Are you looking for a genealogy learning experience?* I have just completed an online study group called ProGen, and this has been a great learning experience for me. Going through the lessons using the genealogy textbook *Professional Genealogy*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills, helped me in so many ways to improve my research into my Pennsylvania ancestors.

Each month, we received an assignment, usually consisting of two chapters of reading and a written project relating to the reading.

Other major microfilm collections include a full set of the Pennsylvania census microfilms (1880-1920) with indexes from 1790-1870. Also, the library has a full set of the land warrant and patent films for the entire state.

An early acquisition was most of the late Floyd Hoenstine's Rental Library—around 3,300 key books on the early history and genealogy of Pennsylvania and the Blair County region in particular. Many of these books are quite difficult to find outside of the library.

The library also houses the notes of the late genealogist Rex Sollenberger (12 shelves) that have special emphasis on families in the Morrison's Cove region of Blair County. Rex's notes often have references to original sources in early books and genealogical periodicals where he gathered his information.

Also, the library has a full set of both the Pennsylvania Archives and Bates' books on all the Civil War soldiers from Pennsylvania. The military section is broken down by wars. There is a section with Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution material. There are file cabinets containing military records; most are copies of material found in the National Archives or Pennsylvania Archives on Civil War or Revolutionary War soldiers.

The library is strong on cemetery, funeral home, church, and tax records for Blair, Bedford, Cambria, and Huntingdon counties in particular, although there is some information on every county in Pennsylvania.

You can use your research for these assignments. So, not only was I learning from the reading and gaining helpful insight from my peers, but I was also furthering my personal research. This has broken down a few brick walls for me.

I have to tell you that this study program is at times very intense. But if you feel you are up for it, then you are off on an 18-month journey that will change the way you research family history, either as a hobby or professionally. It did for me.

Pat O'Donnell Kuhn

Directions can be obtained to get to any cemetery in Blair County from the library (no matter how obscure), and you may not have to go to the cemeteries as many of the cemeteries' tombstones have been photographed and are available to be printed from CDs.

One of the most extraordinary parts of the library is the upstairs that holds the county records. After the Blair County Courthouse microfilmed many of their records, the original will books, deed books, marriage records, tax records, and recently the naturalization papers became available for use at our library. All these records go back to 1846, when Blair County was created.

If you are doing genealogical research, of course, you are looking for surnames. At the center of the library are file drawers of information organized by surnames. These may contain wedding, anniversary, or other information clipped from newspapers, family trees, and other genealogical information people have given to the library. Use the computer card catalog to look up surnames, as associated families in most of the books in the library have been indexed.

For more information on the Blair County Genealogical Society, meetings, speakers, library holdings, or how to have research done, see the website at [www.bcgslibrary.org](http://www.bcgslibrary.org). The volunteers are on hand to assist researchers and guide them in their research.



A photo of Pat Kuhn's great-grandfather, George, her grandmother, Elizabeth, and her younger sister, Margaret.



Geological Society of Pennsylvania  
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*Join us for the following events —*

Noon–2 pm. Fri., Sept. 7. Brown bag a lunch and join us for this presentation about St. George's records. **First Friday at NARA.** Free.

9 am–4 pm. Sat., Sept. 22. Genealogist and blogger Dick Eastman at the **Bucks County Ancestry Fair.** Tickets are required for Eastman's lecture. Free events include lectures on Beginning Genealogy and using FamilySearch online and a local Family History Center.

7–8:30 pm. Wed., Oct 24. Webinar. **Quaker Research: Finding Friends in Pennsylvania** with presenters Kay Haviland Freilich and Ann Wetherill Upton.

10 am–4 pm. Sat., Nov. 3. Focus on the records of the dead and the dying. **Day of the Dead.** Christ Church Neighborhood House Great Hall

For more information, visit [www.GenPa.org](http://www.GenPa.org).

What's inside —

Learn about continuing  
education opportunities in  
genealogy

Blair County Geological  
Society is a major repository for  
southcentral PA records

Lackawanna County records are  
online

GSP helps a reporter learn of her  
grandfather's famous past

Foundry, looking southeast from roof of office building. Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, Scranton Yards, Lackawanna Avenue, Cedar Avenue, River Street & Seventh Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County, PA. Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.

## Dick Eastman Headlines Bucks County Ancestry Fair

### *Letter from the GSP president*

From time to time I've encountered researchers who announce with regard to their research, "I finished it." They truly feel they have accumulated all there is to know about their ancestors and are convinced there is no more work to do.

Yet, I know, having researched my family for 30 years now, there is still much more to do if I am to learn the facts of all of their lives and learn about their character, lifestyle, and life experiences.

When I first began researching, I started attending any lectures, workshops, and conferences I could find. It was exciting! There was so much to learn. I came away from each of those experiences with new ideas, new tools. That excitement has never gone away.

I have heard people refuse to attend a lecture because "it has nothing to do with my research," and yet I have found that any lecture offers me something.

I had the privilege last week of attending the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh as I enrolled in an Advanced Methods Class with Thomas Jones.

A nationally recognized expert researcher, author, and lecturer, Jones said he always continues to learn. He shared a fantastic amount of his current knowledge with the class and I am eager to put it to use.

You'll find in this issue of *Penn in Hand* information on opportunities for genealogy training and education, records available in Blair County, and an article that demonstrates how continued research could add new information to what seemed to be a completed family history.

GSP provides opportunities to learn in its publications, conferences, lectures, webinars, and workshops and helps publicize the same available through our many Partner Societies. Take advantage of them, and never, never let yourself stop learning about your ancestors!

Carol M. Sheaffer, MD  
President



Dick Eastman is editor of Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter

Dick Eastman, a leading expert on technology and genealogy, will headline the sixth annual Bucks County Ancestry Fair.

Editor of Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter, [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com), Eastman will offer four sessions about searching for your ancestors on Google, organizing your research with digital techniques, using wikis to publish your family history online, and employing satellite technology to help find cemeteries, roads, and courthouses.

The event, cosponsored by the Bucks County Visitors Center and GSP, will also showcase local and national Genealogy vendors and offer a 1-hour free genealogy 101 session. Tickets for Eastman's all-day presentation and online registration for free events at the fair are available at [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org).

### *Thank you, indexing volunteers*

We appreciate the 42 volunteers who helped GSP and FamilySearch index 133,172 Pennsylvania records for the 1940 census project. We couldn't have done it without your enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to the larger genealogical community.

Your efforts continue the work of thousands of volunteers who have contributed countless hours to allow researchers to easily access these records and find their ancestors.

More volunteer opportunities are available through GSP. Go to our website home page, [www.GenPa.org](http://www.GenPa.org), and click on "volunteer" to learn more and sign up today.

### **Donations January to June 2012**

Eileen Russo  
Melissa Johnson  
Nancy Janyszeski  
Alice Young  
Curt Witcher

Michael Krasulski in honor of Doug Nicol  
James E. Wentz  
Ruth Roquitte  
Evans Goodling  
Roberta Daymon

### *The next Penn in Hand newsletter will arrive in your computer's inbox*

Starting with our next issue, *Penn in Hand* is going digital as a cost-saving measure and convenience for those of our members who have requested the ease of having the GSP newsletter arrive in their inbox.

*PIH* will be e-mailed to our members quarterly as a PDF file. Back issues will continue to be archived in our Members-Only section of our website.

***If you would like to keep receiving the newsletter in print form, please contact our office by phone or e-mail to let us know.***

In addition, if you've changed your e-mail address recently, please e-mail the office to let us know so we can make sure your newsletter makes its way to you.

# Lackawanna County Has Online Access to Probate and Marriage Records

By Michael Krasulski  
Assistant Professor of Information Science  
University of the Sciences, Philadelphia  
and GSP Board Member

For researchers seeking Lackawanna County marriage and probate records, a trip the Lackawanna County Court House in Scranton or an LDS microfilm request are no longer necessary.

Instead, genealogists need not go further than the Lackawanna County website to access PDF copies of wills and marriage licenses. Through the Lackawanna County Public Access System, records from the Register of Wills, Orphans Court, and Marriage License Bureau are accessible. The Lackawanna County Public Access System

is available at [http://www.lpa-homes.org/LPA\\_Applications.htm](http://www.lpa-homes.org/LPA_Applications.htm).

Upon entering the Lackawanna County Public Access System, users choose either Prothonotary; Register of Wills (1995–present); Orphan’s Court (1995–present); Register of Wills/Orphan’s Court (1878–1994); Marriage License (1885–present); or Index Book Inquires for a menu. Multiple databases cannot be searched simultaneously.

The Register of Wills, Orphan’s Court, and Marriage License databases are updated daily. Regardless of the selection, each database is searched similarly.

The search functionality is equally simple and tricky. Records are indexed by surname

as spelled on the document. Soundex or any other advanced searching capabilities are unavailable. As such, searching for Slavic or Italian surnames, especially for records before the 1940s, takes a bit of guesswork, imagination, and luck. If at first you do not locate the surnames you seek, consider searching by the first three or four letters of the surname. Marriage licenses are searchable by both groom and bride.

After a search is executed, the closest result to your search will appear on the top of the results list. Select the record you wish, and a PDF copy of the record will appear. The file can be saved or printed. There is no cost for this service, and there is no limit on the number of searches that can be made.

## Special Book Discount for Penn in Hand readers

If you’re looking for information about ancestors who immigrated to Philadelphia and became citizens after serving in the Civil War, GSP has a book that could help you with your research.

Military Petitions for Naturalization filed in the Philadelphia {County} District Court 1862-1874 was compiled by Jefferson M. Moak, GSP member, professional genealogist, and archivist at National Archives and Records Administration Mid Atlantic Region.

In 1862 the US government, as a reward to the aliens who served in the Union forces during the Civil War, allowed these veterans to petition for citizenship after receiving an honorable discharge.

This index represents 15% of the total number of petitions filed in Philadelphia during this period. The 20-page paperback was published by GSP in 2000 with a price of \$20.

To purchase the book, go to the Diane Publishing link on our website, [www.GenPa.org](http://www.GenPa.org), under the Publications tab. To receive the special 20% discount available to PIH readers until October 1, type PIH1 in the coupon space at checkout. GSP members enjoy a 10% discount on all GSP publications purchased through Diane Publishing.

## Jazz Musician cont'd from front page

The swab kit found traces of Irish ancestry in my DNA.

What I most enjoyed about the experience is where it’s led me. I still have questions about my family history on both sides. But they are questions I wouldn’t even have known to ask had I not spent hours around a table with GSP researchers.

Carl “Bama” Warwick was a student in the 1930s at the Bordentown School for “colored youth” in New Jersey. It’s where he met Charlie Shavers, and I was able to write to the New Jersey archives office and obtain records. Amid the low grades and lengthy discipline record was a note. My grandfather, at age 17, was expelled from the school for stealing a teacher’s car and taking off to Philadelphia.

For reasons I might never know, my grandfather struggled greatly with his race, whatever it may have been. He never quite fit in with his white peers, but his skin was light enough to help Dizzy Gillespie and other black musicians get gigs at more diverse venues. He never talked with us about his life before family.

There was no mention of his Middle Eastern tour with Gillespie, his time at the school for colored youth, and that the gun he kept stored in his garage into the early 2000s was the one his mother took her life with when

she worried her son would be overtaken by Nazis in World War II.

I knew my grandfather could play music—and play well. But the researchers at GSP opened a window for me that for years had been sealed shut. Whatever secrets my grandfather meant to keep can no longer haunt him. But they can help me figure out who he was.

*Our mission is to provide leadership and support in promoting genealogy through education, preservation, and access to Pennsylvania-related genealogical information.*

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