

Our speaker this month was Marilyn Holt and she spoke on several topics of general interest.

The Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library is working with www.newspapers.com to scan and index old Pittsburgh newspapers. Many Pittsburgh newspapers are scanned and available to browse on the google newspaper archives (news.google.com/newspapers) but they have stopped scanning, are missing many dates, and it is not searchable so you have to know a date of interest and browse the images around that date. The newspapers.com archives are much less complete at this point but they are actively scanning and indexing. It is a monthly subscription site and sometimes available at a reduced cost if you already have a subscription to ancestry.com, their parent company.

If you ever have to pay for genealogy services in a foreign country, one of Marilyn's co-workers has had success using www.transferwise.com. www.paypal.com is another alternative used by one of our attendees.

www.genealogical.com has a number of publications of interest to genealogists, particularly the ones under the heading "Genealogy at a Glance" toward the bottom of the page. These are four page fact sheets on genealogy research on many topics, available by mail for \$8.95 each plus shipping. There's also a free blog that you might find interesting when they write on a topic relevant to your research.

We talked quite a bit about www.fold3.com, particularly the records of naturalizations they have. Here's the text of the records they have online for our area.

"These files contain declarations of intent and petitions for naturalization for the Western District of Pennsylvania, arranged by date, October 1820 through September 26, 1906. They also include records of the US Circuit Court, July 1910-1911, listed by petition number, from 1 to 1,616; and records of the US District Court, October 1, 1906 through January 27, 1931, listed by petition number, from 1 to 91,300."

Fold3 is another monthly subscription site, but is available free at the Pennsylvania Department and the Family History Center in Green Tree. It too is now owned by Ancestry.com (so deals are sometimes available in conjunction with an ancestry.com subscription) but since there are free places to access it and its record collection is so narrow, better to visit one of those locations rather than pay for a subscription.

The closest Family History Center is at 46 School Street in Green Tree and it's open and staffed with volunteers on Tuesdays 10:30 - 6:30, Thursdays 10:00 - 8:00 and Saturdays 10:00 - 1:00. Jim Stuber volunteers there and he will be on-site on May 7th from 10:00 - 1:00, May 21st from 6:00 - 8:00 and May 30th 10:00 - 1:00.