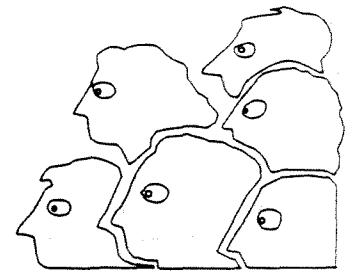


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

Volume 4 - Number 6 - February 1994

President: Virginia Skander
Vice President: Tom Wiley
Cor. Secretary: Gwen Glasbergen

Treasurer: Steph Valentine
Rec. Secretary: Keith Kerr
Subscription: \$12.00 per year
10 Issues from August to June

Publicity: Gwen Glasbergen
Connie Foley
Editor: Marcia Coleman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone: Sorry I had to miss the February meeting, especially since the January meeting had to be cancelled due to nasty weather. I hope everyone saw our closing message on Channel 11 or called the library before venturing out into the nasty weather. This is the first time the club has ever had to cancel. Our speaker cancelled first, but we had an alternative one scheduled. Fortunately, we have several members who are excellent and informative speakers on subjects of interest to all who are gracious enough to fill in on a moment's notice.

Our speaker for March is John Was and he will be talking about Researching Your Polish Ancestors, see the article "March Speaker" on page 53. Our April meeting will be a round table, and don't forget that Judy Martin will be at the club with the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's store with all kinds of genealogical related goodies for sale.

Congratulations to Marcia Coleman for an excellent first newsletter, and many thanks to Elissa Powell for her assistance. We are still looking for volunteers who would like to assist on committees for speakers and field trips. See any of our officers.

There was a misunderstanding concerning the handling of the Expertise Referral List. The List will be distributed to the entire membership with the hopes that those participating will be able to reach even more people researching the same areas. I hope this did not cause too

much confusion for everyone.

We would like to welcome our new member: Mr. James Braden. I hope you get as much out of your membership as I have out of mine over the few years that I've been a member. I've learned a lot thanks to the excellent speakers the club has sponsored as well as from the assistance of other members.

Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. in meeting room # 2. Everyone is welcome.

Hope everyone has decided to take advantage of the opportunity to secure a copy of the "Story of Old Allegheny" at a great pre-publication price. Elissa will tell you more about it at the February meeting. Sorry I have to miss your great presentation, Debi. I was looking forward to it, and I'm sure the membership will enjoy it.

Hope to see all of you at the March meeting. Ginny

FIELD TRIP TO CARNEGIE LIBRARY

On Sunday, February 27, 1994 we will have a field trip to the Carnegie Library. Marilyn Holt will give us a guided tour and explain the resources that are available to us in the Pennsylvania Department. Call Elissa at 935-6961 by February 24th with your reservation.

WHERE GENEALOGIST MEET

Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 pm - **NHG Board meeting** in meeting room #2 at Northland Library. All NHG members are always welcome at all Board meetings. See you there.

Saturday, March 5, at 9:30 am to 2:30 pm - **Beginners Workshop** at the Carnegie Library. Taught by Marilyn Holt. Lunch from noon to 1 pm. Members of Carnegie \$23, nonmembers \$34. For information: 622-3288.

Saturday, March 5, at 10:00 am - **W.P.G.S.** meeting at Historical Society of Western PA, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm - **NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: John Was - "Researching Polish Genealogy".

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - **Beginners Workshop** at the Carnegie Library. Taught by Marilyn Holt. Lunch from noon to 1:00 pm. Members of Carnegie \$23, nonmembers \$34. For information call 622-3288.

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm - **NHG regular meeting** will also include the **W.P.G.S. Store** brought to us by Judy Martin. All kinds of genealogical supplies, forms, videos and gift items will be made available.

Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - **Advanced Workshop** at the Carnegie Library. Taught by Marilyn Holt. Lunch noon to 1:00 pm. Carnegie members \$27, nonmembers \$39. For more information call 622-3288.

May 15-31, **Genealogy Display** by NHG at Northland Library. If you are interested in helping set up this display or contributing to it, please see Ginny.

October 12-15 in Richmond, VA - **Three Day Conference** hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.

"When you and I and a sufficient number of other people start finding our roots, the whole world may recognize at last that we are all one family, and that it is time we learned to live in love and peace and goodwill toward toward all mankind."

John J. Stewart
Logan, Utah
April 1977

QUERIES

Looking for information on Benjamin **MOORE** / **MORE** / **MOOR** / **MOHR** who came to Pittsburgh as a 16 year old about 1837. He was in Lawrenceville in 1840. His wife, Catherine Moore, b. 1832, was living at 400 South Ave., Wilksburg in May 1900. Benjamin was the executor of his father's estate in Westmoreland Co., PA in 1865 and at the same time, guardian of the 2 minor children, James and Joseph Moore. Contact Shirley Drake Maynard, 12 Fort Worth St., Hampton, VA 23669-1108.

I am looking for information on the following surnames: **BRADEN, ALCORN, GREER, HOLMES** - Beaver, Cumberland and Lancaster Counties, PA; **WHITE, CAMPBELL, SPEAR, STEWART, SIMMS** - Butler, Cumberland and Franklin Counties, PA; **AUTHUR** - Ireland, Baltimore MD, Pittsburgh; **O'BRIEN** - Ireland, Maine, Philadelphia, Cumberland County; **WOODS** - Lancaster and Cumberland Counties, PA (on my husband's side.) Mine are from early New England. Contact Dorothy B. Braden, 23 Banbury Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1301.

I am looking for information on the following surnames: **REBEL**, Allegheny County and **GENTZER**, McCandless Township. Please contact M. Susan Campbell, 121 Second Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

I am researching the following surnames (location included): **GRATOWSKI** from Prusinowice; **OLDAKOWSKI** from Prusi.nowice; **FURMAN** from Krasne and Jaciazek; **JUKUBOWSKI** from Krasne and Jaciazek. Please contact Theresa, Ziemianski, 1324 10th Ave., Natrona Heights, PA 15065-6451.

ORDER BOOK BEFORE MARCH MEETING

The Allegheny City Society Inc. is republishing the book Story of Old Allegheny City and it is being offered to us at a special pre-published price. S. Greene Drucker (spoke at our July 1993 meeting) will be at our March meeting with examples. We will be getting a discount depending on the number of books that are pre-ordered. The maximum price will be \$28.00 for the hard cover edition and \$17.50 for the soft cover edition. To order Call Elissa Powell at 935-6961 before the March meeting.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Question: What does the term VITAL RECORDS really mean and where do I find these records?

Answer: Vital records is the term historians give to birth, marriage and death certificates.

Birth certificates list the date, time, and place of birth, the sex of the baby, perhaps its name, and the names of the parents.

Marriage certificates list the woman's maiden name, residence, and place, date, and presiding minister or official.

Death certificates list name, age, date, place, cause of death, and doctor's name.

With all such records the originals remain in the custody of the town or county officials, but by law you are entitled to copies. Locating such certificates is not as difficult as it sounds.

Many such records have already been copied or extracted and published. Most libraries carry the *WPA List of Vital Statistical Records* published by the federal government in 1943. This is a state-by-state compilation of the whereabouts of marriage, birth, and death records. It is a good place to start unless you are looking for vital records in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, or Vermont; for those you will have to go to your specific research locale, following the procedures listed below.

Birth and Death Records: Write the U. S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 and ask for the pamphlet, "Where to Write for Birth and Death Certificates." This lists the address, cost, and records available for each state. With few exceptions those records date from the late 1880's. For earlier birth and death records you should write directly to your ancestor's town or county. In New England births and deaths were kept by the town or village clerk. In the South and West they were usually kept by the county (or parish, in Louisiana) clerk. For information of U. S. citizens who were born or died outside of the U.S., write to the Health Resources Administration, National Center for Health Statistics, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Marriage Records: For marriage records filed since 1900, send for the pamphlet "Where to Write for Marriage Records" (There is also one for "Where to Write for Divorce Records"), U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington D.C. 240402. Before 1800 marriages were recorded differently than they are today. In many places, legal documents called "marriage banns" or "bonds of intention" were posted by the suitor, usually with a stiff financial penalty if he defaulted - an interesting way of making a suitor's word as good as his bond. Such fascinating old records can be found among city and county records. In addition, since almost all marriages then were also religious ceremonies, they are also contained in church records.

The above information was taken from the book Finding Your Roots by Jeane Eddy Westin

MARCH SPEAKER

We are fortunate to have **JOHN WAS** coming to our March meeting because many Pittsburg families are of Polish decent. He will be speaking on Researching Polish Genealogy. He is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast. The Pittsburgh Chapter hopes to start holding regular meetings here in by next spring. Anyone interested in tracing Polish ancestry can receive a free packet of information from the Polish Genealogy Society by writing to Polish Genealogy Society of the Northeast, Pittsburgh Chapter, 706 Jessica Circle, Oakdale, PA 15071

If you are interested in joining the Polish Genealogical Society of the North East send \$12.00 a year dues to Lyle Road, New Britain, CT, 06053. You will receive two issues annually of the newsletter *Pathways and Passages*.

WE NEED YOU

We are looking for volunteers to be on the nominating committee. If you are interested please contact Ginny or any of the other officers.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE SIEBERT ROAD NAME

By Cheryl Redmond, Historian
Berkley Hills Civic Association Newsletter - Winter 94

Shortly after the first article appeared, I received a call from the great grand-daughter of Christian Siebert, the man for whom Siebert Road is named. She had this biography and thought we might be interested. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did

CHRISTIAN SIEBERT 1820 - 1893

From Jordan's Encyclopedia of Biography,
Pennsylvania. Copied by Madaline S. Hunter June 1916

It is impossible to recall the Pittsburgh of the latter half of the nineteenth century without summoning before our retrospective vision the figure of one of the men most clearly associated with that period of the city's history - the late Christian Siebert. During his long residence in Pittsburgh, Mr. Siebert was closely and influentially identified with the leading interest and was always numbered among her foremost citizens.

John Siebert, the founder of the American branch of the family, was born in Siebertshausen of Kreis Rodenburgh near Hesse Kassel City, Germany; and on June 4, 1836, embarked in a sailing vessel for the United States, landing in Baltimore on September 3rd, whence he made his way with his sons, Christian and William, to Pittsburgh. They made the journey in Conestoga Wagons and by the portage railroad and canal, accompanied by a number of others, and arrived in Pittsburgh on October 3, 1836. On October 7 they began work on the **Espy Farm**, and during the next three years, the father and the two sons became farmers in what was later known as Baldwin Township, Allegheny County, and the father was for the remainder of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits in the vicinity of Pittsburgh.

Christian Siebert, son of John and Annie **Kunigunde (Krapp)** Siebert, was born in August, 1820 in Germany, and when sixteen years of age came to America with his father and brother, William. Christian Siebert engaged in dairy business in Shaler Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where he purchased a farm, which is still in possession of the family.

Subsequently he went into the shoe business, having a store and also a factory for shoes, in which the employed forty workmen. Still later he engaged in the leather trade

on Pennsylvania Avenue near Eleventh Street. The firm was Siebert & **Berg** and they continued the business with great success until 1885, when Mr. Siebert retired. He was at the same time engaged in the feed business, having established the firm of Siebert & **Keil**, from which he withdrew in 1881. Thenceforth, he was extensively engaged in real estate, from which he accumulated a large fortune.

Christian Siebert was one of the founders and incorporators of the German National Bank of Pittsburgh, and was one of its directors from its formation to the time of his death. He also took an active part in furthering the erection of the Ewalt or Forty-third Street Bridge, leading to Millvale Borough, across the Allegheny River. This was built in 1868. He was one of the incorporators and founders of the Germanis Savings Bank, and a director for its organization until his death. He was also one of the founders of the Allemania Fire Insurance Company, and for the remainder of his life a director and large stockholder, and was also one of the incorporators of the German Fire Insurance company.

In politics, Mr. Siebert was a staunch Republican and a number of years represented the Eighteenth Ward of Pittsburgh in the city council. His interest in all forms of philanthropic enterprise was keen and helpful, and his private charities were numerous.

He was a member of Grace Reformed Church of Pittsburgh, served as one of its elders. He was one of the promoters and for several years the treasurer of St. Paul's Orphan Home in Butler, Butler County, PA, later removed to Greenville, PA. He was a fine mathematician and wrote English and German readily. Mr. Siebert married Margeurithe Madalene **Graessel**, who was born in Alsace, France, and after her mother's death was brought to this country and reared by an aunt. The children of Christian and Margeurithe were P. William, whose biography and portrait are elsewhere in this work; Robert who died young; Charles Theodore who died March 1905; Clara Wilhelmina, wife of William **Steinmeyer** of Pittsburgh; Mathilda M., deceased, who was the wife of J.B. **Carson**; John C., deceased; Sara who died young; and Elmer E.

The death of Christian Siebert which occurred in Pittsburgh, June 10, 1893, deprived Pittsburgh of one of her pioneers, and a man whose life both as a business man and citizen, was free from the slightest blemish. His was a life of quiet force, high minded endeavor and large benevolence - a life that left the world better than he found it. Such was the life of Christian Siebert.

DIALECT DETECTIVE

By Scott Norvell

Columbia Tribune January 27, 1988

When Marylouise Moskel, then known as "Sarah," turned up at a Boone County truck stop last fall with neither memory nor friends, one man helped her pin down her past.

Donald Lance, a linguist with UMC's English department since 1969, talked with her and "within a few sentences, I recognized the western Pennsylvania dialect," he says. A month later, police in Pittsburgh confirmed Lance's theory.

Western Pennsylvanians, he says, pronounce the vowels in the words "stock" and "stalk" the same. "They use a longer vowel - what people would call a drawl." Armed with few other clues - she also said "greazy" instead of "greasy" - Lance pinpointed Moskel's accent. Lance, who specializes in U.S. dialects, met with Moskel. During their first conversation, on Nov. 20, he "found her to be a delightful person to talk with" and "genuinely interested in finding out where she was from, who she was".

Before the second interview, Lance consulted a dialectician friend in Pennsylvania and several linguistic atlases of the United States. He compiled a list of words and pronunciations native to Pennsylvania's regions. For instance "teeter-totter" is common in far northern counties of Pennsylvania whereas "seesaw" is used in the middle and western portions.

During the second interview, Lance found that Moskel had lost some of her western Pennsylvania speech patterns, leading him to believe that she had moved around a lot.

"On one occasion, she said 'creek', and on another occasion she said 'crik.'" Lance says " 'crik' is a western Pennsylvania pronunciation. People generally think it's a southern pronunciation, but it's not. It's a Northern Pronunciation".

Sgt. Ken Smith of the Columbia police said, "I had no idea he could be so specific, not only did he get us to the right state, but he even directed us to a specific region. I was quite surprised and pleased."

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS LIST

by Charles F. Downs II, Archivist, Regional Archives System, National National Archives, Washington, DC

A press conference held on July 28, 1993 at Ford's Theater rekindled interest in the Civil War Soldiers System, a joint project between the National Park Service, the Genealogical Society of Utah, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Civil War Trust, and NARA to create a database of names and other information from 5.5 million Civil War soldier's records in the National Archives. John Peterson, NPS, the Project Coordinator, told me that it has taken much longer than expected to gear up the project. He sent me the following information.

Curt Weicher, FGS, is recruiting volunteers and establishing a volunteer structure. The original plan was to start with the regional archives and then have volunteers work at home, but it appears that they have actually started with people working at home first, and will utilize the regional archives later. Weicher suggested that anyone interested should write the following address for an information packet:

Names Index Project — CWSS
P.O. Box 3385
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385

LDS has developed a software package for data entry, which had to be modified to accommodate compiled military service record data, and took longer than planned. They are starting to test data entry by volunteers.

POLISH IMIGRANTS

The total number of Polish immigrants are buried in the statistics for Russia and Austria-Hungary, which both dominated Poland at different time, but more than two million Poles flocked into America's expanding industrial cities after 1880. The largest Polish communities grew up near the stockyards of Chicago, the steel mills of Pittsburgh, the auto plants of Detroit, and the metal industries of Buffalo. Many Poles also vied with incoming Italians, Irish and French-Canadians for jobs in the textile mills of New England.

SHOULD IT BE A HARDBOUND GENEALOGY?

From Newsletter of Czechoslovakia Genealogical
Society International Winter 1992

This will be the question that many prospective authors of genealogies and local historical works will undoubtedly face. It is the very dilemma that my co-author, Helen M. Vavra, and I pondered at about the eight year point of a twelve year project that resulted in the publication of "The Dvoraks of Minnetonka Township, Minnesota."

Each author will have a different list of priorities and goals. Perhaps the greatest commonality between authors involved in creating "this type of work" is that their project is pursued as a labor of love, certainly not for monetary considerations. By this "type of work", we set apart the family genealogy and local history from the "how to" books on genealogy and related topics written with high volume distribution in mind. Perhaps the best way of advising others in this situation is to convey these factors that were most important in making our decision to go hardbound. With a great deal of soul searching we decided that the primary factors were as follows:

- size of the project
- scope of the project
- readership or audience
- photographs and quality of presentation
- endurance of final product

Let's look at each of these factors beginning with the size of the project. Our project started out simple and straight forward: "find out who our Dvorak ancestors were and chart a family tree." That soon turned into a promise to the Hopkins Historical Society to create more charts to "straighten out (genealogy speaking of course) all of the different Dvorak families in the area." How could we pass up such a challenge since we were convinced that ALL Dvoraks in the Minnetonka area were related to us.

Within a few years, the countless letters, extensive research and calls produced family statistics for hundreds of persons. As our draft of compiled material passed the 200 page count (278 final) and the persons addressed in various charts exceeded the thousand mark (3400 final), we started to give serious consideration to a hardbound book. With a large amount of time, effort and research already expended, one must consider that the extra effort necessary to go hardbound may be very worthwhile, especially if it makes you feel "right" about the final product.

The second consideration we mentioned was the scope of the project. As our research progressed, it encompassed more families than just our own; it attempted to establish or discern relationships between families of the same surname. More important than the statistics we started with, were the family accounts of experiences and their way of life that intertwined with and even influenced local history. We were proud of their role in development of the raspberry industry in Minnesota and numerous other accomplishments. We uncovered a great deal of information on the original immigrants and their life in Bohemia as well as their accounts of travel. This brought to life a different perspective. As the scope of the project grows, each author should give more consideration to that extra mile involved in a hardbound book.

Readership or audience can be a highly variable consideration to different authors. Each author should consider the target audience and why he or she is trying to reach them. Who will have interest in this book? In our particular case, we presented material of interest to numerous families as well as those interested in local history. With the content and depth of material presented, we wanted to provide the families with a book that would be retained and passed on as a family keepsake. A high quality book will more likely be received and treated as a keepsake. At the same time, we wished to recover most of the actual book production costs; more on this later. Estimating the readership is an important parameter for the author intending to recover production costs. Underestimating can result in a reprint; overestimating can result in disaster and a lot of excess books on your shelves.

As your research progresses, you are bound to drive out photographs not seen by most descendants of a family. These pictures will tend to represent a collage of the family lifestyle; each one well worth its thousand words. We were able to collect not only family photographs for each family covered, but photos of their homes, farms, churches and societies. If high quality presentation of these photographs is an important part of your book, then a photographic screening process will be necessary to maintain detail. This brings the author one step closer to publishing hardbound.

One last consideration should be the endurance of the final product. This is a broad term intended to cover not only the physical durability of the book, but how it will be retained or handled by individuals, organizations, and societies as well as its eligibility for retention by

repositories. What does all that mean? Well, for one thing, the Library of Congress may not assign catalog card numbers or accept certain "self-published or privately printed publications." Some lineage societies also prefer hardbound books or require their chapters to bind prior to accepting donations. To obtain current policies if you intend to get cataloguing numbers or register copyrights, write to the following:

Library of Congress
Register of Copyrights
Cataloguing in Publication Div.
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

What about the flip side of the hardbound publishing approach? The two considerations at the top of our list were the "added costs" and "extra efforts" that would go into this approach. you will most likely want or need a qualified editor. To our good fortune, our editor, Leo F. Dvorak volunteered his services and added immeasurably to the quality and accuracy of this book. When you include the added costs of the hardbound methods, you will want your printed material to be commensurate with the rest of the final product. This includes both paper and print quality. Computers are invaluable tools to "any" book project and are a real plus when it comes to the output of a near type-set quality on a laser printer. This can save the cost of typesetting by a publishing house. You can also provide a disk to some publishers for their output on a photo-typesetter. Your lowest cost will probably result from doing most of the leg-work yourself and providing near camera-ready material to a printer/bindery. Each author must do his/her own trade-off study on cost and how many services to buy from a publisher or printer/bindery. Some of the factors to consider are the following:

- manuscript preparation (who?)
- typesetting versus camera ready
- photographic screening (Qty?)
- binding method
- cover quality
- cover embossing
- paper quality (wt/finish/color)
- trim size
- ink (black/multi-color)
- quantity of books
- page count of book
- cataloguing requests (who?)
- copyright application (who?)
- warehousing (cost)

- announcement/advertising (who?)
- order fulfillment (who?)
- storage of proofs (cost)
- editing services (who?)

The above items should arm the author with some appropriate questions when requesting estimates from publishers or printers/binderies. Also, be sure to understand your rights and the sales agreements. In some cases, you may only have the right to purchase a limited number of books at a "reduced price." If the author does most of the leg-work and provides near camera-ready material to a printer/bindery, the recovery of production costs may occur with as low as 200 to 300 book sales (assuming you are within 10% of the books produced). With the purchase of more services from publishers, the recovery of costs may occur in the 500 to 1,000 book sales level. Authors intending to recover research costs should be at least at this level and more likely above the 1,000 mark or "forget it!"

In summary, if the prospective author considers the first list of five factors and adds any other consideration, this should help make the decision on whether to take the hardbound approach. The second set of factors should provide an effective starting point for pricing of the production and distribution of the book.

When asked if "our" project was all worthwhile, I would say that "our research was our hobby, our book was the proud output of that research, and the final reward for the effort was all that positive feedback and support from family, friends, and readers." We have been thanked many times over for our endeavors. Perhaps the culmination of that feedback came at a recent family reunion where we were informed that our book brought together a family that had been separated for many years by adoption, other means of searching had been exhausted. Our advice to "all" researchers and authors is to persevere, persevere, and persevere. Good Luck!!!
Albert J. Kranz, Burnsville, Minnesota

ADDRESS CHANGE

MAHONING COUNTY CHAPTER
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 9333
BOARDMAN, OHIO 44513

NEW GENEALOGICAL RESOURCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

By Dorothy S. **Dominick** - Pathways nad Passages -
Volume 9, Number 2 - Spring 1993

Years ago my maternal grandmother, Magdalena **Dudzinska**, told me that she was born in 1875 in Mikstat, Poznan, Poland. Every year she had me list the names for the All Soul's Day remembrance at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Among the names were those of her parents, Antoni and Michalina **Matylewicz**, and that of her husband Roch Dudzinski.

The only thing my grandmother ever told me about my grandfather was that he came from "Guberni." It wasn't until the mid 1980's that my mother's sister gave me his Naturalization certificate and their Pamiatka Przyjecia sakramentu sw. matzenstwa" (marriage certificate) from Sacred Hearts Church. I also located their Application for Marriage at the Lackawanna County Court House in Scranton. All three documents had Roman as his given name.

Over the years, his surname was spelled phonetically in a variety of ways - **Duszynski**, **Dugenski**, **Dudzienski** and **Dudzinski**. I was so occupied with my grandmother's ancestors that I never had the opportunity to research his background.

In November 1992 I decided that the best strategy would be to get a copy of his death certificate. On November 3 a visit to the Scranton Office of Vital Records soon deflated my hopes. The application for a Certified Copy of Death Records requires the County of death and the Boro/City/Twp. If the search is not successful, the three dollar fee is not refundable.

I had no idea in which mine the accident occurred or its location. Also, I had no idea who could help supply the information. All of his children, all the neighbors and all relatives who knew him were dead.

Suddenly, on November 16 I had a brainstorm - maybe the Anthracite Museum might have some information, but I could not find their number in our directory. My next move was to try the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour. The woman who answered said they had no information, but she would check with the men, some of whom had worked in the mines. During our conversation, I mentioned

seeing at the adjacent Museum a map of all the mines from neighboring Luzerne County and through Lackawanna County and wondered if they might be able to help. She gave me not only the phone number but also the name of the woman for whom to ask.

Maria **Quinn** was very congenial and said she could check the Mine Inspectors Reports and call me back that day or the next.

When I returned from an afternoon at a local library, my husband said, "The woman from the Museum called 10 minutes after you left. She has a report for you. Call her at 9 tomorrow."

The phone rang at 10 to 9 the next morning - it was Maria. She was so excited she couldn't wait for me to call. The accident did occur on 26 Jan. 1917. My grandfather was listed as Roman Duginski, a 44-year-old miner who left a widow and 6 children. Most important of all, the report contained the place of the accident — Greenwood Colliery in Lackawanna County. The nature of the accident was "Killed by fall of rock in an airway."

Maria sent me a copy and on November 20 I mailed the application for a death record.

On Christmas Eve the mailman brought me a letter from the Division of Vital Records and in it was what I had dreamed of for years and years. However, the items in which I was most interested were unreadable. The local Vital Records Office advised me to call the main office in New Castle, PA. the clerk there advised me to return the certificate with a note requesting a clearer copy. In my note I specified the four items needed.

In January I received a beautiful certificate on which all data is readable. Again, there is a conflict with data.

My grandmother, the informant, described my grandfather as "Roch Dudzinski," who was born in 1872, 45 years of age, father's name was Maciej and mother's name "unknown". On their Application for Marriage, my grandfather listed his parents as Michael and Annie. Sacred Hearts church also had Michael and Annie, plus her maiden name, "**Macdsiuska**."

My grandfather's first name was "Roman" on the Application for Marriage, Certificate of Intention, Citizenship Paper, 1900 Census, and the Mine Inspector's Report. These were, no doubt generated by him. "Roch" appeared on the "Paminatka przyjecia

sakramentu sw. matzenstwa," Indenture for property in the township of Lackawanna, 1910 Census, Certificate of Death, and his tombstone. A family group sheet completed by Sacred Hearts Church had the Latin "Rochus." Evidently, these were generated by the Church and /or my grandmother, using the Polish or Latin version.

The chart illustrates his ages and year of birth. Items in parentheses are estimates.

Many of my relatives, my husband's relatives and relatives of three Irish friends whom I am helping, had worked in the mines. On my first trip to the Anthracite Museum Library I began with the earliest records and worked up to 1911. One of the names I discovered was a man named **Montoro**. This was Maria's maiden name. When I told her about my finding, she said, "There weren't any other Montoros." Little did I know that I would be helping her in return for what she did for me.

I do not know what my next move will be, but I am thrilled to have discovered the library at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum.

[Pathways and Passages editor's note: Mrs. Dominick's experiences teaches us that viewing just one document is not sufficient. Names and dates in many U.S. records can be conflicting and all sources should be examined.]

The Story Behind the Names

| DATE | SOURCE | AGE | DATE OF BIRTH |
|-------------|--------------------------|------|---------------|
| 21 Oct 1896 | Application for Marriage | 28 | (1868) |
| 02 Aug 1897 | Certificate of Intention | (31) | 15 Jul 1866 |
| 10 Jun 1900 | 12th US Census | 30 | -Mar 1870 |
| 23 Apr 1910 | 13th US Census | 39 | (1871) |
| 26 Jan 1917 | Mine Inspection's Report | 44 | (1873) |
| 26 Jan 1917 | Certificate of Death | 45 | 1872 |
| | Tombstone | 49 | (1868) |

Butler County

[from pamphlet of the same name, published by John M. Roberts & Son Co.]

Butler County was erected by an Act of March 12, 1800, and named for General Richard **BUTLER**, distinguished officer of the Revolution, who was killed at St. Clair's defeat, by the Indians, November 4, 1791. The seat of justice was also named for this patriot.

The first permanent settlers were David **STUDEBAKER** and Abraham **SNYDER**, who came to the present Worth Township in 1792. Prior to this, they had spent the winter with the Delaware Indians in their town at the mouth of Wolf Creek, near the present Slippery Rock. They were Pennsylvania Germans from Westmoreland County. Scotch-Irish came before 1795, and, after the Treaty of Greenville, settlers came in increasing numbers, including some Irish Catholics.

Butler, the county seat, was settled in 1793 and laid out by the commissioners, who organized the county, on a farm in Butler Township, owned by John and Samuel **CUNNINGHAM**, who donated 250 acres for county purposes. The General Assembly designated Butler as the county seat on March 3, 1803, and incorporated it as a borough in the same Act. It was chartered as a city on January 7, 1918.

Zelienople was incorporated from Jackson Township in 1840, and named for "Zelie," daughter of its scholarly founder, Baron Dettmar N. F. **BASSE**. It was called "Zelie's City" and later its present name. The Baron, in 1802, built a reproduction of a German castle, which he called "Bassenheim," on his 10,000 acre tract, and in this castle was born his world-famous grandson, Rev. William A. **PASSAVANT**, D.D., who founded many hospitals and orphans' homes in America.

Saxonburg, named for his native country, Saxony, by the founder, John A. **ROEBLING**, is also the birthplace of his eminent son, Washington A. **ROEBLING**, who built the Brooklyn Bridge and other famous structures.

Harmony is the site of the communistic society, founded by Rev. George **RAPP**, in 1804, and named after the society of "Harmonists."

BOOK REVIEW

POLISH SURNAMES: ORIGINS AND MEANINGS

This book was written by William F. Hoffman. The first half of the book consists of ten chapters tracing the history and development of Polish surname; the second half lists approximately 10,000 common surnames, grouped by the roots from which they were formed. The book is designed to help Polish-Americans with little or no knowledge of Polish learn about the words their names came from and how those names may have gotten started. It does not give detailed information on the history or local origin of any particular surname or family. It is paperback with 304 pages. To order send a check for \$16.50 (plus \$2.50 postage and handling) to

the "Polish Genealogical Society of America" c/o Marcia Bergman, 926 Oxford Lane, Willmette, IL 60091.

Carl Sandburg said, "When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found. They forgot where they came from." When you research your family and create a history of your family, there is no forgetting, no sense of coming to an end. Because there is no end, there is only the sense of continuing.

Jeane Eddy Westin

Next Meeting: TUES.; MARCH 15, 1994 JOHN WAS - POLISH GENEALOGY

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