

## NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



## %Northland Public Library 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Volume 11, Number 7 - March , 2001

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10 Issues - August - June

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Punxsutawney Phil was right — we did get that winter weather he promised. At any rate, the silver lining to the winter weather is that I did complete the filing of my genealogical "stuff", and it occupies the best part of three drawers in the filing cabinet. It's all tagged, labeled, and indexed so that I can put my finger on most anything I'm looking for.

The bad news is that I haven't done any research during this period. The good news, it has given me a chance to organize my search. I have listed items to search for at several locations that I plan to visit. This will help to optimize my time while there. I'm now planning several trips to the County Courthouse, the Latter Day Saints facility, and a return to the Archives of Industrial Society at the University of Pittsburgh to veify some records that are in doubt because I failed to copy them accurately. It has helped me focus on priorities, and subordinate some of the less important items.

While sorting through some of the records, I found that my wife's ancestors came to Allegheny City from Baltimore, MD sometime before 1861. I'm planning on searching for them in the census when we go to the Western Reserve

Library in May. Western Reserve is one of the largest family history centers in the country. They have all the Federal Census Schedules on microfilm from 1790 through 1920, and passenger lists for New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

So, if you're stumped because your ancestors came from another state, and you don't have access to the records you need, join us on a day trip to Western Reserve on May 12. We'll be happy to have you come along. Just give me or one of the officers a call.

Sylvan

PS You can get additional information on Western Reserve's library at www.wrhs.org -You can also search their Archives Library Collection Catalog on line.

> Next Meeting April 17, 2001

Dr. James H. Sterrett

"Finding the Place of Origin of Your
Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestor"

#### WHERE GENEALAOGISTS MEET

Tues, April 3 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting - Cafeteria, Passavant Hospital. Everyone welcome.

Tues, May-15 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - Jim Sterrett speaking on "Finding the Place of Origin of Your Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestors"

Tues, May 15 - Regular NHG Meeting - Dr. Michael Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council - "Slovak Settlers in Pennsylvania"

Sat. May 12 - NHG Spring Research Trip - Western Reserve Historical Society.

Mon., March 26 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Rick Miller & Joanne Shelby will speak on "President & Mrs. Lincoln". Meeting held at The Babcock.

March 30-31 - The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society - 22nd Annual Educational Event for Genealogists and Family Historians - Lancaster, PA. Keynote address - Roland Paul, Assoc. Dir. of Institute for Palatinate History and Folk Culture, Kaiserslaautern, Germany. Check out http://www.lanclio.org.

Sat. March 31 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Slippery Rock Heritage Association - 13th Annual Genealogy Workshop

Sat. April 7 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm - The Allegheny City Society and The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Civil War Seminar - "April During the War - 1861-1865". For information contact: Allegheny City Society at 412-321-4502 or Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table at: http://www.thegreaterpghcwrt.homestead.com Sat. April 21 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - WPGS Annual Spring Seminar - Radisson Hotel, Greentree -Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer speaking on researching in the Pennsylvania Archives.

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Female ancestors are often very hard to trace. Unlike your male ancestors, their maiden names disappeared when they married. While men led public lives, women led private ones. As long as a woman was married she was unable to buy and sell land, even land she inherited, enter into contracts or even write a will without her husband's consent. When she married. everything she had, even her clothes, became the property of her husband. For many years she could not even have custody of her own children. If the husband died, some other males were appointed guardians of any minor children.

But, don't give up. With some work (and a little luck) you can find her. Thoroughly check all federal census records for clues. Search out birth, death, and marriage records. Look for a will for her husband, since she will probably be mentioned. If he sold any property, she may be listed in the deed. Check out the other people named in wills or deeds for clues. This is often called "cluster genealogy", since the same names often show up in these documents and one of them may be from her family. If your male ancestor applied for a military pension, check these records since they usually list the spouse and children. Also check out their neighbors, since people usually lived near relatives.

Your female ancestors are there. They are just quieter than the males. So, don't give up. They want you to find them. Remember, without them you wouldn't be here to do your searching.

### TOMBSTONE SYMBOLS

From the Montgomery Co., OH mailing list

In this issue we are starting a listing of tombstone symbols for you to use when researching in cemeteries. We will continue this in future newsletters.

#### Religious

**Angels** - mean spirituality and guard the tomb **Bible** - a single Bible is often found on Christian stones

**Holy Books (2)** - on Mormon headstones indicates the Bible and the Book of Mormon

**Holy Books (3)** - on Mormon headstones indicates the Scripture of the Church - the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants

Chalice - usually represents the sacraments

**Crown** - the soul's achievement and the glory of life after death

**Cross** - an emblem of faith. There are many different types. See the following website for various types of crosses on tombstones:

http://www.alsirat.com/symbols.cross.html

**Heart (Sacred)** - usually found in Catholic cemeteries, this heart refers to the suffering of Christ for our sins.

## SLIPPERY ROCK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Saturday, March 31, 2001

Note change in speaker and program content

Carrie W. Eldridge, local, regional and national speaker will present a program covering the following subjects: Westward Into Western Pennsylvania; Maps Galore; Frontier Agriculture: Papa Turned a Left Hand Furrow; Locating Extinct Towns: Where to Look -Why You Should; Sources That Hide: Finding and Using Old Records. Contact Helen Staiger (724) 794-4627 or e-mail at geniespeak@aol.com. \$28 w/lunch if registered by March 22. \$28 w/o lunch after that date.

#### TYPING GERMAN CHARACTERS

Have you come across a family name that has the original German spelling and you want to use them in your database? You can duplicate those symbols by using the key strokes listed below on your keyboard. You <u>must</u> use the numeric keypad on the right side of the keyboard. Note: These usually do not work on MACs.

alt 0192	À	alt 0193	Á	alt 0194	Â
alt 0195	Ã	alt 0196	Ä	alt 0197	Å
alt 0198	Æ	alt 0199	Ç	alt 0200	È
alt 0201	É	alt 0202	Ê	alt 0203	Ë
alt 0204	Ì	alt 0205	Í	alt 0206	Î
alt 0207	Ϊ	alt 0208	Ð	alt 0209	Ñ
alt 0210	Ò	alt 0211	Ó	alt 0212	Ô
alt 0213	Õ	alt 0214	Ö	alt 0215	×
alt 0216	Ø	alt 0217	Ù	alt 0218	Ú
alt 0219	Û	alt 0220	Ü	alt 0221	Ý
alt 0222	Þ	alt 0223	ß	alt 0159	Ÿ
alt 0138	Š	alt 0224	À	alt 0225	á
alt 0226	â.	alt 0227	ã.	alt 0228	ä
alt 0229	å	alt 0230	æ	alt 0231	Ç
alt 0232	è	alt 0233	é	alt 0234	ê
alt 0235	ë	alt 0236	ì	alt 0237	í
alt 0238	î	alt 0239	ĭ	alt 0240	ŏ
alt 0241	ñ	alt 0242	Ò	alt 0243	Ó
alt 0244	ô	alt 0245	õ	alt 0246	δ
alt 0248	ø	alt 0249	ù	alt 0250	ú
alt 0251	û	alt 0252	ü	alt 0253	ý
alt 0254	þ	alt 0255	ÿ	alt 0154	Š

Example: Teßmann
This involves typing Te(alt 02)

This involves typing Te(alt 0223)mann
The "English" spelling would be Tessmann

Give it a try. Won't it be nice to have the true German spelling of a name in your database?

#### BEGINNER'S CORNER

When you first start your genealogical research, the big question is "Where do I look first?" Unless you are one of those lucky people who have <u>documented</u> information gathered by your relatives, the answer is simple — you start with yourself. You always start with what you know and work back.

Write down all your personal information - name, date & place of birth, parent's names, marriage, etc. After you have done this, move on and gather the same information on your parents and grandparents. Try to identify every place your parents and grandparents lived so you will know where to look for records.

Keep going back a generation and try to gather the same information for each generation. If you can't get specific dates, try to at least get some idea of the person's age when an event occurred. Be sure to tap all possible sources - parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Even former neighbors of your parents and grandparents are good sources.

Once you have names, dates and locations, head to the library or LDS Family History Center and start looking through census records for the applicable dates. If you live in a different area than your parents or grandparents did, inquire about renting census microfilm for those areas.

In order to use the census and Soundex indexes, you will need to know the Soundex code for each surname. To find out more about the Soundex code and how to determine what it is for your names, see the following website:

http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/soundex/soundex.html You can type in the surname and the site will give you the Soundex code.

Start with the most recent census (note that 1920 is the most recent available) that will have your

parents listed. Once you find them, take the information found there and keep going back, and back, and back. It is good to make a copy of the microfilm record of each census where you find relatives, so you can go back to it in the future without having to order the film again. Be sure you copy the top part of each census sheet so you have all the necessary information to use when loading the information in your database.

Other sources include family Bibles, church records, tax and deed records, wills, court records, birth, death and marriage records, military and Social Security records, city directories and of course, cemeteries. These types of records are useful to fill in the blanks caused by the missing 1890 census.

While you are collecting this information be sure to DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES. If you use compiled histories (family, counties, etc.), remember that while these are good clues, they are not primary evidence and you need to find the documents that support the statements in the histories. You will also note discrepancies in ages and dates in the census records. Remember, the information is only as good as the knowledge of the person providing it and the person recording it. Again, find the primary evidence.

There are many good books on genealogy and you might want to purchase one or two. Also check out some of the magazines available - Heritage Quest, Genealogical Helper, Family Tree, Ancestry and Family Chronicles. All have good articles on researching.

Researching is part excitement, part frustration and part feeling of accomplishment. Unless you have inherited a complete family genealogy, don't expect to jump right back to the family homeland. That will come later. Expect to hit some brick walls along the way.

Have fun and good luck.

# THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, late 1940-early 1950. Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

### **Indiana County**

Indiana County was erected by Act of March 30. 1803, out of Lycoming and Westmoreland counties. The part lying south of the Purchase Line was taken from Westmoreland, and that to the north from Lycoming County. It was named for the original occupants of the soil, who had migrated and had been forced there through numerous battles. The early settlers were Scotch-Irish from the Cumberland Valley, who first came there in 1769. The seat of justice was fixed at Indiana in 1805, and by Act of March 10, 1806, the judicial functions were performed in the new county seat. The Conemaugh River forms the entire southern boundary, and a number of streams afford excellent water for the soil which is well suited for agriculture.

The area is 829 sq. miles, which is underlaid with coal, iron, limestone, natural gas and salt springs. For more than 50 years, the county was a chief inland center for the manufacture of salt. About 5/6 of the county is arable land, and most of this is under cultivation. There are 14 boroughs and 24 townships.

Indiana, the county seat, was incorporated from White Township March 28, 1816. It was settled by Conrad Rice in 1794, and was laid out in 1805 when the commissioners to select a seat of justice formally accepted the 250 acres offered by Hon. George Clymber of Philadelphia. A principal street is named "Clymer". The seat of State Teachers College, opened May 17, 1875. The chief products are glass products, wagons, horse collars, leather novelties, ladders, wooden ware, enamel ware, foundry products, tannery, woolens and textiles, maccaroni (sic), flour, saw and planning mills.

Many of the townships have been named for prominent residents, or conspicuous landmarks. Armstrong, an original township, was named for Gen. John Armstrong, hero of Kittanning and distinguished officer of the Continental Army: Banks, erected from Canoe Township in 1868. was named for William Banks, a citizen of Indiana: Blacklick, erected in 1807, was named for its streams; Brush Valley, erected in 1835, was named for the valley of Brush Creek; Buffington, named for Judge Joseph Buffington; Burrell, named for Judge Burrell; Canoe, erected in 1847, was named for the creek, the mouth of which was the head of canoe navigation; Center, named for its geographical situation; Cherryhill, named for Cherryhill Manor, surveyed for the Proprietaries; Conemaugh, named for the river which forms its southern boundary; Green, named for the immense forests of pine and hemlock: Montgomery. named for Montgomery, early settler and landowner who was a veteran of the Revolution; Pine, named for its extensive forests of pine; Rayne, named for Robert Rayne, early settler on the run which bears his name; White, erected in 1843, was named for President Judge Young. Robert Elder and his family were the pioneer settlers.

## NHG SPRING RESEARCH TRIP WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Saturday, May 12, 2001

NHG will take its annual spring research trip to Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland on Saturday, May 12. WRHS has census records for most states, as well as a large collection of state and county histories. They also have an extensive collection of family genealogies in both book and manuscript format.

Plan on spending a day of research with your fellow NHG members. Drive yourself or form a car pool. More information and a map will be in next month's newsletter.



Note: All start with http://www.unless.otherwise.noted

Distant Cousins
http://distantcousin.com/homepages/indices/a/at/
aumack.html

Palatines to America
http://genealogy.org/~palan/welcome.html

Transcriptions of orphan, adoptee and foster children listings in orphanages, homes and poorhouses from US and Canada censuses http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~orphanhomes

Find a Grave findagrave.com

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
nara.gov/regional/stlouis.html

Burial Sites on the National Register of Historic Places

flash.net/~leimer/register.html

"Touring Turn-of-the Century America"

Over 100 turn-of-the century picturs of

Pittsburgh and surrounding area.

http://loweb2.loc.gov/ammem/detroit.dethome.html

The Funeral Home Registration and Administration Site - obits arrangeonline.com/obituary/search.asp

The Butler Eagle Newspaper butlereagle.com

What is your favorite website?
Share it with other NHG members

# TIME TO GATHER FAMILY INFORMATION

Continued from the February issue Submitted by Steph Valentine

How did you find out that you were going to be a parent for the first time?

How many children did you have all together?

What were their names, birthdates and birthplaces?

If you had it to do over again, would you change the way you raised your family? How?

What did you find the most difficult about raising children?

What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?

Were you a strict or lenient parent?

How did you first hear that you were a grandparent and how did you feel about it?

What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren?

## NHG May 15, 2001 Meeting

Dr. Michael Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council will speak on "Slovak Settlers in Pennsylvania". Dr. Kopanic will present information drawn from the unpublished archives of Rev. Baska, one of the first to research the settlements of early Slovaks.

Dr. Kopanic's presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Supported by:

Meeting is free and open to the public.



# SHIP PLANS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The following article was sent by former NHG President, Keith Kerr. Thanks Keith - Nice to have a "resident" NARA member.

We receive many requests regarding the availability of ship plans and engineering drawings in the National Archives of the United States.

Our holdings include plans of vessels manufactured by or for the Federal Government circa 1797 to 1945. These plans are filed in three separate record groups. The largest holding includes approximately 50,000 ship plans from the records of the Bureau of Ships, Record Group 19. Most of these plans are of U.S. naval vessels constructed before 1945.

Additions to these holdings are continuing. Plans for non-US commissioned vessels are rare.

The second set of holdings is in the Records of the U.S. Shipping Board, Record Group 32, specifically the Emergency Fleet Corporation in World War I. These are plans for merchant vessels that were acquired or built by the Federal government to meet the challenges of World War I. There are no similar merchant ship plan holdings for the World War II era at this time.

The third set of holdings we maintain is filed in the Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Record Group 25. These records include plans of Revenue Cutters and Coast Guard Cutters built circa 1875 to 1955. This is also an active Record Group and the holdings are currently expanding.

The holdings of plans for vessels launched after 1946 is small. As a rule, ship plans are not transferred to our holdings until quite some time after they are stricken from the U.S. Navy rolls.

Ship plans are in two basic formats. The first is

hard copy. Older plans are on paper and linen tracing. Many are on blueprints. Ship plans created in this century are often on linen and brownprint.

Many ship plans and drawings have been microfilmed by the Navy. Plans for many ships built during 1949-1946 are currently available in this medium.

The cost for a microfilm copy is \$34 per roll. A National Archives Order for Reproduction Services is used for ordering. The quality of the photographed plans on the microfilm does vary. Some images may be poor. Scale transfer from this medium is difficult. In many cases, microfilmed plans are "class plans", and are not specific to a certain vessel.

Microfilm copies are made to order; they are not stock items. Because of the laboratory and handling expense, microfilm orders are non-refundable. Upon request we will search our finding aides and holdings for a specific vessel. To inquire on the availability of any Federal ship, please furnish us with the name of the ship and ship designation/hull number. Please limit any requests to two vessels per letter so that we may provide equal assistance to all researchers.

We maintain a Master Ship List for Record Group 19. We consult this list for the availability of plans for a commissioned vessel. We then check the holdings for the range and scope of the records. This list is not on our Web Site.

Mail order reproductions of records from our holdings are available only as custom orders through an authorized private vendor. The cost of copies depends on the physical size of the record and the format chosen for reproduction. Ship plans in hard copy can be quite large.

Keith Kerr, Maps and Plans Group Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS)

#### POLISH FALCONS

The following was submitted by Bernice Broniecki

The Polish Falcons are a national fraternal organization dedicated to preserving their rich heritage while documenting and publishing the many achievements and activities of the Polish-American community and Poland.

The Falcons have been compiling membership information for their organization for over 100 years. If an effort to help save these records before they are lost to time, neglect and deterioration, PolishRoots (tm) has the unique opportunity to help preserve these membership records by imaging and indexing them to make them available for family research. When the project is completed, you will be able to search the records on the Internet.

To help achieve this goal, they are seeking financial assistance from the Polish community. To find out more about this program, please check out the following website: <a href="http://www/PolishRoots.org">http://www/PolishRoots.org</a>.

### QUERIES

Compiled by Query Editor, Sylvan Kretz

MYERS, George Walter (b. 12 Sept. 1869 - d 3
July 1936) m. to HIGBY, Alice Angeline in 1888.

LOEFFLER, Christian (b. 25 Dec 1859 - d 26 Jan 1918) m. to DIETHLEM, Elizabeth W. (b. Dec 1862 - d Dec. 1919) - Any information. Contact:

Bonni Bunting, Rt. 2, Box 358, Wagoner,
Oklahoma 74467, raystrike@webzone.net

ZELLERS, William (b. 1858) m (1878-1885) to SRVANK, Etta (b. 1863/64), ZELLERS, Donald (b 1878 - d 1910), Mary M. ZELLERS (b 1890 d-1910) m. to ESPY, ?; Virginia "Jenny" E. ZELLERS (b 1898) m. to MILLER, Charles Franklin "Frank" (b. 1906), LEROY, Kenneth "Kenny" Sr. (d 1968-1978). Interested in birth, death, will estate records. Contact: Charles E.

Zellers Sr., #214337, K.M. C.C. - C208, P.O. Box 710, Keen Mtn. VA 24624

DIETERICH, John C. Had a farm on Scott Avenue, Glenshaw (1898-1950). Resident of Florida seeking help in locating grandfather's farm. Need vicionity maps, etc. Contact: Betty Zinsmeister Keith e-mail elzk@funo.com

## DATES AND DAYS OF THE WEEK IN THE PAST

When you find the date an ancestor was born, married, died, etc., do you wonder what day of the week it happened on? On page 9 there is a reference calendar for the years 1796 - 2025. This will help you figure out the actual day of the week an event occurred.

### NHG APRIL 17 MEETING

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF YOUR IRISH AND SCOTCH-IRISH ANCESTOR

Dr. James H. Stewart.

The chance of success in tracing one's Scotch-Irish ancestor in Ireland is in direct relationship to how specifically one can identify where he/she originated there. Because research in Irish records will probably be of little success otherwise, this place of origin is something "you must know before you go." This talk presents several ways to find where that immigrant called home.

Dr. Sterrett is a retired Professor of History at Geneva College. His special interest is Irish and Scotch-Irish research, which he has spoken about at local genealogical and historical societies.

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## NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library 300 Cumberland Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### DATED MATERIAL

91008 00-01 Elissa & Reed Powell 720 Highpoint Drive Wexford, PA 15090-7571

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF YOUR IRISH AND SCOTCH-IRISH

## ANACESTOR

Dr. James H. Sterrett April 17, 2001

#### NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Board officers for 2001-2002. If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in being a candidate yourself, please see either Sylvan Kretz or Tom Wiley. All nominees will be contacted to obtain their agreement to be candidates. Board officers are: President. Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Elections will be held in June, with the results announced in July. The new officers will assume their duties at the August, 2001 meeting.

North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does not maintain a library and does NOT do research. An individual member may chose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.

Queries in the NHG newsletter are free and open to everyone. Submit your queries to North Hills Genealogists at the address on the front. Mark the envelope to the attention of the Query Editor.