

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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

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10 Issues: August—June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRSSM

"I've hit a brick wall," she emailed. "It is my grandfather who died in the 1950's." She was looking for help on the email list and got it in my response that perhaps she should write to the PA Dept. of Vital Statistics in New Castle for her grandfather's death certificate which will give other pertinent information. I also suggested looking at the 1920 U.S. Population Census, and then the 1910, and 1900.

She responded back "Thanks - I never thought of some of those ideas. I decided to take another stab at 1920 & 1910 censuses (also recently subscribed to Ancestry's Images Online - don't even have to leave home now). Only 2 hours into the fun I found Robert, Mary and 6 kids - address is same street as my grandfather's birth certificate (he's kid #4) in 1920. So I'm making progress. Thanks again for your help."

We all have "brick walls." It usually means you have to change to a different methodology than what you have been using. It means learning about the records in the time period in which you are having trouble and where they are located. Not all genealogy can be done from home. Sometimes one might have to actually go to a library or courthouse. Or travel to our ancestral home counties to see what public records are still accessible there. A

brick wall is a learning opportunity, whether we are a "baby genealogist" like the lady above, or a more mature one.

To learn more about records and their availability as well as research methodology, one should consider going to at least one conference or seminar per year. There are many opportunities in our area to learn from those who are experienced. Just look at the calendar in this newsletter. Our April speaker is a nationally known lecturer and author, and our meetings are free and open to the public.

There are other advantages to attending a work shop or conference, such as meeting new cousins, viewing products and services that might be on display, and learning a new trick or two. Sometimes one of these things can be priceless and you will be glad that you paid the nominal \$25 or \$30 to attend a day-long seminar which even gave you lunch!

No matter where you encounter your brick wall, there is usually someone that can help you over it. Or sometimes in concentrating how to get over it, they can point you to how to go around instead. All it takes is another set of eyes and an open mind.

Wishing you few brick walls and many ladders with steady helping hands.

— Elissa

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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

esmaloney@aol.com.

Tues, March 5, 2002 - NHG Board Meeting -
7:30 pm - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria.
Everyone welcome.

Tues, March 19, 2002 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Documenting and Organizing the Family Narrative: I have 20 years of stuff, now what do I do?" - Richard Hayden (see article)

Wed, Feb. 20, 2002 - Western Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table - 7:30 pm - Edgeworth Elementary School - Gary Augustine will speak on "Lincoln as Commander during the Gettysburg Campaign."

Sat., Feb. 23, 2002 - Preservation Fair 2002 -
Carnegie Museum of Natural History - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Free with admission to the Museum.

Mon., Feb. 25, 2002 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 pm - "The Battle for Atlanta" - Speaker Michael Graswick. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd.

Sat., March 9, 2002 - WPGS Monthly Meeting -
10:00 am - Two lectures by Amy Johnson Crow, CG. "Ten Years is a Long Time: Census Substitutes for the In-Between Years" and "Using Land Records Effectively."

Upcoming Events

Sat. March 2, 2002 - Western Reserve Historical Society - Cleveland, OH - Genealogical Research in the Computer Age. 1:00 - 4:00 pm \$15.00. Late fee of \$5.00 after February 23. Contact: wrhsgen@juno.com or 216-283-6451.

Sat., March 9, 2002 - The Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the DAR - Genealogical Workshop. Wildwood Golf Club. \$12 with lunch. Contact: Ethel Maloney, 412-821-3154 or

Thurs, March 21, 2002 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - Drew Wilson, St. Francis Hospital, will talk about the hospital's history from its founding in the 1860's to the turn of the last century. Held at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

Sat., March 23, 2002 - Slippery Rock Heritage Association's "Annual Genealogy Workshop."
More details later.

Sat., April 6 - Civil War Seminar - "Bitter April"
co-sponsored by The Allegheny City Society and Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table. (see article)

April 5 - 6, 2002 - Lancaster Family History Conference, Lancaster, PA - Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush, keynote speaker: "The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road." April 5 will feature a bus trip to Washington, DC. On the 6th, there will be 20 seminar options. Check out <http://www.lmhs.org>.

CIVIL WAR SEMINAR

The following was submitted by Darlane Abel

The Allegheny City Society and Greater Pittsburgh Civil War RoundTable are co-sponsors of "Bitter April", the Second Annual Civil War Seminar for Monument Preservation, which will be held at The Babcock Meeting Center in the North Hills on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Scheduled speakers are distinguished authors and historians, Bud Robertson, Bill Lazenby, Chris Calkins and Ron Wilson, who will discuss the days leading up to the surrender at Appomattox. The first seminar raised over \$2,000 to repair and protect the Civil War Soldier's Monument located in historic West Park on Pittsburgh's North Side. 412-321-4502.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

RAMSEY, Beaver County, PA. Contact: **Doris Jones**, 9543 Magellan Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-6117 e-mail: nodo2@yahoo.com

HIGBEE, CRAIG, MULLEN, GORDON, GERKIN, JONES, STEFANKO. Contact: **Barbara A. Schmitt**, 4022 Cook Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044, e-mail: sch@nauticom.net

GRIGG, WATKINS, SZVOBODA, Turtle Creek/Pittsburgh, PA. **MCCORMICK, KERR**, North Side/Pittsburgh, PA. **HUNIHAN**, East Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: **Sherry Borza**, 125 Kyle Road, Valencia, PA 16059

GRIFFIN, Kentucky. **MARTINE**, Ohio. **FREEMAN**, Illinois. Contact: **Pauline Goodwin**, 21355 Via del Vaquero, Yorba Linda, CA 92887

MENHOLD, Andrew and Elizabeth. Seeking information on descendants. Children: **James** (b. 1840), **John** (b. 1842), **Maragretta** (b. 1844), **Olive** (b. 1849), **Elizabeth** (b. 1851), **Harriet** (b. 1853), **Emma** (b. 1855). Contact: **Margaret E. Duffy**, 14 S. Spring Road, Westerville, OH 43081-2445. e-mail: pegduffy@netwalk.com

GAUS, SISMOUR, CIZMAR. Pittsburgh and Millvale, PA. Contact: **Don Gaus**, 9368 Northgate Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

PAYNTER, Ohio. **NOLAND**, West Virginia. Contact: **Ronald L. Paynter**, 427 Bull Creek Road, Butler, PA 16002

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send your queries to the address on the front, Attention: Query Editor. They will be printed in the newsletter as space permits.

RESERVE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Reserve Township Historical Committee is tentatively scheduled for March 14 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall on Lonsdale Street. They are looking for people to help with the project, and who have pictures and other memorabilia they can share. Contact Dan Anderson at 412-322-1551 for more information on the meeting.

NEW PUBLICATION

Lifelong Emsworth resident leaves a legacy to small-town living

James W. Knox, former Allegheny County controller and life-long resident of Emsworth, died on Dec. 30 at the age of 82. He left as part of his legacy a collection of "fond remembrances" of Emsworth and its people. Written in the form of letters and short essays, "Dear Emsworth" was published in July by the Ben Avon Historical Association.

The book contains profiles of some of the borough's most prominent - or simply memorable - citizens and covers such historical events as St. Patrick's Day Flood in 1936, the Homestead Steel Strike and the founding of Suburban General Hospital. It is a loving recollection of the "world that was" when he was growing up with his eight brothers and sisters in a small house on Eicher Rd.

Parts were published as part of Emsworth's 100th birthday celebration and was so popular that he and his daughter began working on the complete book. Copies of the book are available for \$10 from the Ben Avon Area Historical Association, 316 Dickson Ave., Ben Avon, PA 15202. For more information call 412-761-00479.

MARCH 19 NHG MEETING

20 Years of "Stuff": Now What?

Richard Hayden

Our speaker for March is Rich Hayden. He characterizes himself as "... just an amateur family historian... no professional certification or letters after my name." But he has faced what many of us have or are now facing. We have been collecting family history and genealogical items for a few or for many years. Now what do we do with this "stuff?"

Rich wants to encourage us to begin writing up our results "...even if it's just a few pages now and then." "Over time", he predicts, "the narrative will only grow in depth and meaning."

"For me," he continues, "writing is a tool for organizing both my stuff and my thinking, and I don't doubt that others will find it to be such as well. I think the written narrative also helps you to connect and identify more fully with the people you are writing about, certainly more so than the bare bones of a pedigree chart."

Rich feels that once documented, reproduced and properly disseminated, our family stories "... will connect many others, now and in the future, to their roots in a most immediate way, and pave the way for others to expand upon this 'never-ending' journey."

His challenge to us: "I would like to have everyone leave the meeting with a new or renewed dedicated sense of purpose when it comes to writing up their results. But it all starts with the first word of the first paragraph... I hope that everyone can take that first step, and then the next, and then the next..."

Rich Hayden has been married 34 years and has one son. He has worked as a research chemist

since graduating from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971. He has over 30 published articles and patents related to his vocation, but has found his avocation of the past 20 years, "...on a personal level, to be even more rewarding in ways that I could not have imagined when I started."

He has published articles in *The Virginia Genealogist*, *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* and *The Genealogist*. He has at least a dozen or more drafts in various stages of the writing process some of which he intends to submit for publication in a suitable periodical. His goal? "One day I hope that one of these will become the basis of various chapters in the final product -- a book."

WHAT IS A GENEALOGIST?

A full-time detective
A thorough historian
An inveterate snoop
A confirmed diplomat
A keen observer
A hardened sceptic
An apt biographer
A qualified linguist
A part-time lawyer
A studious sociologist
An accurate reporter
An hieroglyphic expert
AND
A complete nut!!!

The above was previously published in Roots Web Review, Vol. 6, No. 4, 23 January 2002 and submitted by Andrew Billingham

**IT IS INDEED A DESIRABLE THING TO BE
WELL DESCENDED -- BUT THE GLORY
BELONGS TO OUR ANCESTORS**

Plutarch

SCAMS

The following is from the Sunday Morning Coffee mailing list and is used with the permission of the owner.

Genealogy Developments - Is it FamilyDiscovery.com?

No, it isn't. This has all the trappings of FamilyDiscovery using a new alias; same ploy as before -- just with a new wrapping. Avoid them like you would any of Family Discovery's other "enterprises."

The subject of FamilyDiscovery is NOT new and yes, they are rip-offs. The storyline changes a little, but the players are all the same.

FamilyDiscovery, et al links their pages to free Rootsweb sites and archives pages, GenWeb sites, and privately owned sites by way of frames -- sites on which all the information is already free. Unless the attached site has some sort of identifier on each page, you, the viewer, will not realize that you're viewing free pages, and "paying" for the "privilege" of doing so! FamilyDiscovery is doing this without permission and are currently under investigation by at least two states' attorneys.

GenealogyDevelopments advertises, "Currently we provide an easy access to over 900 million records." (who counted?) Of course they can say something like that! Think about all the free sites there are to link to! Then they go on to say, "We are working on a very large scale search engine that will search billions upon billions of genealogy records."

A new ad has begun to circulate under the name of GenealogyDevelopments.com. Visit their site (<http://www.genealogydevelopments.com/records.html>) and have a look around .. do you see a contact address? No? There's a good clue for you to realize that something isn't up to what is reports itself to be. It doesn't really make a

difference because even if there were one your message would not be answered.

You need to know the other aliases so you're not taken in. The following is a list of sites associated with FamilyDiscovery domain owners in one way or another.

genealogydevelopments.com

familydiscovery.com

genealogyfinders.com

genealogyfinders.net

aboent.com

genseekers.com

genseeker.com

genealogy-express.com

Save your money and do the search yourself! You do NOT need to pay for a service that is already free if you know where to look.

Gene Olson has been a chronic thorn in the side of the owners of the above sites to the point of having a death threat put against him. His website focuses on any company that uses illegal or unethical business practices. Check it out at <http://www.compuright.net/badbusiness/>

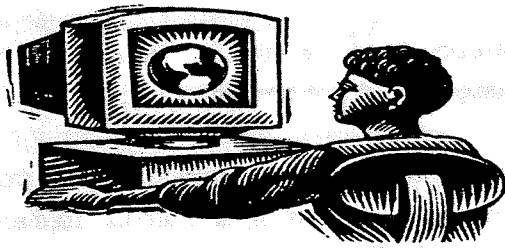
These people will take your money, giving you little to nothing in return and from their past history will not answer any of your messages. Hide your wallet, checkbook, credit card and RUN!

GEDLINK

Are they a scam or what? Not sure yet, but here are a few things about them.

They ask you to register and you have to download a trial version of their program (free) to link up with others. The premise here is to be able to allow others to view your data at the same time you're viewing theirs.

(continued on page 56)



(GEDLINK, continued)

WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: all start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

Mail lists for Railroads

American-Railroads-L-request@rootsweb.com

PA-Railroads-L-request@rootsweb.com

Site for Found Family Bibles

usgennet.org/usa/topic/ancestors/b-found.html

Researching Russian Roots

mtu-net/rr

Slovakia Genealogy

slovakia.org/society-genealogy

The Carpathian Connection

tccweb.org

Researching Roots

mtu-net.ru/rr

UK Genealogy

ukgenealogy.co.uk

Jewish Web Index

jewishwebindex.com

Polish Roots

polishroots.com

What they don't tell you until about four pages into the site, at the end of the registration, is that they want you to become a member for \$19/year. Until you pay, you can't access the promised features.

One of GedLink's designers said in an online message: "The GedLink Software can be freely used. With GedLink you can search for names, issue requests and send messages without becoming a paying member. We don't want to write that the user has to pay for GedLink before the registration in order not to frighten him before he has first used the software, and we think it is not necessary, because there is no cost involved for the basic features...."

The following is from one of the members of the Sunday Morning Coffee List: "I use GedLink and I recommend that you invest in Norton Internet Security. GedLink works on you sharing a directory (on your computer) with your GEDCOM file in it which you would need to update everytime you made changes. I have asked GedLink on several occasions about security with this method of sharing and what keeps someone from hacking into other areas of your harddrive. Nothing in their FAQ page addresses security. GedLink has tried to assure me that their software prevents this - sure just as Microsoft prevented those from accessing Outlook and most recently Windows XP." As the list manager says, "I really don't get warm and fuzzy feelings from a company that buries their fees, not divulging them until you are already registered and they have your e-mail address."

How do you protect yourself? Apply to your Internet dealings the same good sense you try to use in everything else you do. However, on the Web, you need to be more than just a little skeptical.

(Ed: Will keep you posted on any more news)

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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

Washington County

Washington County was erected by an Act of March 28, 1781, out of Westmoreland County and named for the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, then at the very height of his military fame.

George Washington, who began his illustrious career in Western Pennsylvania, purchased 2,813 acres of land in what later became Washington County, from Lord Dunmore, July 5, 1774, and after the war he visited his property in the present Mt. Pleasant Township, and attempted to eject the squatters.

On September 17, 1776, the first court held by the English-speaking people, west of the Monongahela River, was held with Edward Ward presiding as judge. He was the Ensign Ward, who on April 17, 1754, surrendered the fort at the Forks of the Ohio to the French, opening the French and Indian War.

Washington County was the scene of much action in the pre-Revolutionary days, including the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794, started here in opposition to the excise law of 1792.

Washington, the county seat, was first known, in 1769, as the site of the Delaware Indian Village of Chief Tingocqua, called Chief Catfish, by the first settlers, and for some years was known as "Catfish's Camp."

David Hoge bought a tract of land here, April 26, 1771, and had a town laid out as *Bassettown*, in

honor of his kins man, Richard Bassett, later Governor of Delaware. Washington Seminary for girls was established here in 1836. The first crematory in America was erected here, in 1876, by Dr. Francis J. LeMoynes.

Canonsburg was named for Colonel John Canon, who laid out the town in March, 1787. He was a militia officer, Indian fighter, member of the state assembly and donor of the land to Jefferson College in 1802. Jefferson College was the outgrowth of Rev. John McMillian's Log Cabin Latin School, established in 1782.

Monongahela City was once *Parkinson's Ferry*, after Joseph Parkinson, who settled there in 1770. In 1795 it was changed to *Williamsport* and to its present name April 1, 1837. *Bentleyville* was named for Sheshbazzar Bentley, its founder in 1816. *Charleroi* for the Belgian town of Charleroi in 1882. *Donora* was derived from "Donner", name of the president of the company which laid out the town in 1900, and from "Nora", baptismal name of Mrs. Andrew W. Mellon.

The county now contains two cities, thirty-two boroughs and thirty-three townships, occupying an area of 862 square miles.

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

To receive e-mail notifications of future NHG meetings and other events, send an e-mail to the following: pioneerbook@juno.com We do not sell or give out any e-mail addresses to other groups.

**So we beat on, boats against the current, borne
back ceaselessly into the past.**

F. Scott Fitzgerald

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING THOSE ANCESTORS LURKING SOMEWHERE IN YOUR COMPUTER?

Like many of you, scouting the Internet (in addition to all those microfilmed obits and deeds) for one more branch on your family tree, I subscribe to countless Surname and County lists at Rootsweb, GenForum, Familysearch and others.

We are always hoping to find that perfect GEDCOM file so we can download and merge it with our existing files. Or we got a new database program but are having trouble installing it. We have become dependent on our electronic gadgets to record and save our genealogy records. Typical of technological development, there is always a newer, better, faster gadget or program we simply must have. But there is more than a monetary price for such rapid development. I have been reading messages such as the one below:

"To: IRELAND-L@rootsweb.com - Anyone out there that uses FTM version 9. I need some help. First, I would like to know how it should have been set up? I loaded it on my C: drive. Of course I have entered a lot of data. Seems that every time I make changes it automatically backs up in C: drive in the FTW folder. But seems that it has more backups now for some reason. It has 7 different files in FTW folder."

A couple weeks ago a woman on another list explained that her daughter had received a new computer for Christmas and had given the old one to her mother. The mother received a new version of FamilyTree Maker. She had already entered lots of data in her old FTM software on her daughter's new computer when she decided to install the new FTM on the old computer and wanted to save the old files into the newer version of the software. Confused yet? Well, she

was. The mother was having great difficulty sorting out what was going haywire in her process.

I asked the folks at NHG if I might post a little card offering to assist those who might be having such problems. I am a computer programmer by profession and an ancestor sleuth by avocation. Maybe we could post a few of the questions every now and then and how to solve the problems.

Here's my number and happy hunting:

PC HELPER

Need help installing your software?

Would you like to make a family tree web page?

Need some genealogy help?

Call 412-363-4753

ask for Deb

15 years of experience & reasonable rates

Note: NHG is providing this information for our members. NHG does not endorse this offer nor is it liable for any problems with the quality of the work performed or any rates charged. All arrangements are between the two parties.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER MAGAZINE

Starting with the January/February 2002 issue, this magazine has a new name and format. It is now called *Everton's Family History Magazine*. There are now longer articles similar to *Heritage Quest* and less advertising for Everton's products. They still have some of their older columns such as Bureau of Missing Ancestors. It looks like this will be a more interesting and useful magazine than the old one. It is now available at the stores (got mine at Borders). The current issue's cover story include "Keep on Track with Railroad Records", "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor" and "620,000 Civil War Casualties - Disease vs. Battle". Check it out.

HELPFUL MAKE-IT YOURSELF FORMS

The following is excerpted from *Ancestry Daily News*, 28 January, 2002

Chart of Ages

This chart helps identify the ages of each ancestor in the various census years. This allows you to easily see who should appear in what census and about how old they should be (providing they didn't lie to the census taker.)

SMITH	Thomas	Mary	Sally
1820	bet 3-4		
1830	14	6	
1840	24	16	
1850	34	died 1850	3
1860	44		13
1870	died 1861		23
1880			33
1900			died 1894

Address Charts

A great way to trace your ancestor's movements and help locate other locality-based records is by creating a spreadsheet with the addresses at which they lived. Addresses can be found on census records, in city directories, vital records, court records and in many other places that may not be so obvious. This makes it easy to pinpoint where an ancestor lived at a particular point in time and that information can be used to determine what local government agency, religious jurisdiction or even newspaper will likely have other records you are seeking. This is a simple spreadsheet:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Record where found</u>
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Witnesses and Sponsors

Many records include the names of witnesses or sponsors, including marriage, baptism, probate,

land and others. Since witnesses and sponsors often turn up more than once and may be related in some way, it is also helpful to keep a listing of those that appear on our ancestors records. By creating a list of the witnesses to your ancestor's life events, you can sometimes determine to which branch of the family they are more likely to be affiliated.

(Ed. note: I think another good list would be the names and addresses of churches our ancestors attended, the names of those who attended that church, the years they attended, etc. That way you can always go back to those records for more information. Also, be sure to note where you found the records.)

FIVE GENERATION CHARTS

A new year has started. Have you started, finished and submitted your five generation chart to NHG? If not, why haven't you? You are missing a great opportunity to get your information out there for others who may be researching the same families you are. Forms are available at the meeting.

While you are at it, complete your Surname Cards and submit them at the same time. Each card must have at least one date for the person listed. Cross-reference the wife/husband on the back of the cards. Children can also be listed on the parents' cards as well as on cards of their own. The cards already submitted are available at each meeting. Check them out to see if there is anyone researching your names.

Do it now! Don't put it off any longer! You never know where you will find that missing connection that lets you go back another generation.

Check out both the Five Generation Chart binder and Surname card file at the meeting.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



DOCUMENTING AND ORGANIZING THE FAMILY NARRATIVE: I have 20 years of stuff, now what do I do?

Richard Hayden

March 19, 2002 - 7:00 pm

GERMANS TO AMERICA SERIES

They are now expanding the Germans to America series to include the 1840s. The original series begins in 1850. The first volumes in the new series (Series II) are now available. WPGS has added both of these to their library. For more information check out:

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/gtoa2.html>

A new volume in the original series has also been recently published. Volume 67 covers arrivals at New York from November 1895 to June 1897 (this same material should also be available in the Ellis Island Online Database. Check out:

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/gtoa.html>

Ed Note: I checked out the two volumes in Series

II and found that not only does it list those arriving starting in 1840 but also included those arriving from other countries (Switzerland, France, Pommern, etc.) which the original series didn't.

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 for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged