

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

To doubt everything or to believe everything are two equally convenient solutions; both dispense with the necessity of reflection.—Jules Henri Poincaré

“How much proof is enough?” is an oft-asked question. Do you rely on just one document or two, or just how many is enough? I attended a lecture given by Helen F. M. Leary, CGSM CGLSM several years ago where she addressed this question. She compared proof to a three-legged stool. Such a stool on uneven ground is more stable than a four-legged chair. But, she cautioned, the three pieces of information cannot be from the same source. A death record and obituary would not be two different sources if the information came from the same place. So going to the root of your source is important in evaluating the information.

The *BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (Orem, UT: Ancestry, Inc., 2000) addresses this issue as well on pages 8 and 9. To do a thorough job of research and know that your conclusions are valid, you should look at *all* the available data about the subject person. By looking at every record created about the person you will be able to best determine if the conclusions you are reaching can be substantiated by the facts or whether there is some bias, or downright falsehood in the records. I don't know about your families, but I do know of one set of grandparents on my husband's Southworth line who are named as the baby's “parents” on the birth certificate in WV.

Evidence needs to be evaluated as to whether it is an original or derivative source. Original means that the information came from a “person or record whose source *did not* come from data already spoken or written.” It is the most authoritative source. A derivative source is from “a person or record that supplies information that is repeated, reproduced, transcribed, abstracted, or summarized from something already spoken or written.” Because every recopying is opportunity for error to be induced, the original source from which the derivative comes should be examined.

Primary information is “data contributed by a knowledgeable eyewitness... or by an official whose duties include making a full, accurate record of it.” Secondary information is “supplied by a person who recorded it after hearing [it] from someone else.”

A death record is primary for the date of death, but secondary for the birthplace of the deceased. It can be an original document, or a derivative one if it was found on the internet or in an index book. Evaluating how accurate the information is depends greatly on how close the source was to the event and how many generations of error could have occurred.

May all your ancestors have tombstones.
— Elissa

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WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, April 2 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting -
UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues, April 16 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting
- "The Other Federal Census: Non-Population and Special Schedules 1810-1935". Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG. See separate article.

Thurs., March 21 - Lawrenceville Historical Society - 7:00 pm - Drew Wilson from St. Francis Hospital will present the first of a three part presentation on St. Francis Hospital. The lecture will cover the hospital's founding in the 1860's to the turn of the century. Meeting held at Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

Sat, March 23 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - The Slippery Rock Heritage Association's 14th Annual Generalology Workshop - Slippery Rock University. Topics covered will be Scotch-Irish ancestral research; Locating immigrant places or origin; The Research Cycle. Contact Helen Staiger at Helen@genespeak.com or 724-794-4627.

Mon., March 24 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Michael Kraus - "The Making of 'Gettysburg', An Insider's View" The Babcock, 3382 Babcock Blvd. North Hills.

Upcoming Events

Sat., April 6 - The Allegheny City Society and Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "Bitter April." The Second Annual Civil War seminar for monument preservation. Call 412-321-4502 for information.

Sat., April 13 - WPGS Annual Spring Seminar - Rhonda McClure will present four topics: "Pitfalls in New England Research," "I Found It Online: Separating Fact from Fiction", "Effective

Searching on the Net", and "Organize, Organize, Organize." For registration information check <http://www.wpgs.org>.

April 18-21 - Ohio Genealogical Society 41st Annual Conference. Toldeo, OH. Check out: www.OGS.org.

NHG APRIL 16 MEETING

At our April 16 meeting we will have the opportunity to learn more about the "other" federal census records which may contain otherwise unknown information about our ancestors. These agricultural, manufacturing, mortality and social statistics plus a fascinating 1880 collection of "Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent" records may provide new clues in our search for family information.

This lecture is a part of the 2001-2002 program at the National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR) at the National Archives in Washington.

Bringing this presentation to us is Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG, professional genealogist, author and lecturer. She has been certified by BCG since 1993, is president of the National Institute on Genealogical Research Alumni Association, vice-president of GENTECH, a director of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and winner of the 1996 National Genealogical Society Family History Writing Contest.

We are privileged to have Mrs. Clunies speak to us because our president, Lissa Powell, knew that Mrs. Clunies would be visiting family in Wexford at this time. (Thanks Lissa)

E-MAIL MEETING NOTICE

To receive an e-mail notification of upcoming meetings, send an e-mail to pioneerbook@juno.com and asked to be added to the list.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

CADMAN, England. Contact: **Ruth McCartan**,
9380 Cromwell Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

SIDEBOTTOM, MANLEY, McCULLOUGH,
HOOBLER. Contact: **Louise A. Wallace, 2642**
90th Avenue, Luray, KS 67649-94126.

JONES, Pittsburgh, PA and Wales. Contact:
Clyde Jones, 832 W. Old 422 (832 West of Rte.
422), Butler, PA 16001-0250

FARMERIE, Shaler Twp. and Etna, Allegheny
County. **SCHNEIDER/SNYDER**, Sharpsburg,
Allegheny County. Seeking descendants of the
above. Will share several generations of
FARMERIE (originally **FIRMERY**) and
SCHNEIDER ancestors from Lorraine, France.
Contact: **Mary A. McDonough, 217 Tennyson**
Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1415.

EARLE(E), RAY/REH, etc. Washington County,
PA prior to 1800. Contact: **Sally Matejka, 251**
West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA
15237-4933.

FREE GENEALOGICAL PERIODICAL INDEX

HeritageBooks, Inc. is making the latest edition of
the "Genealogical Periodical Annual Index: Key
to the Genealogical Literature" (Vol. 39, 2000)
free in an all electronic e-book format. This
e-book can be downloaded for free by subscribing
to Heritage Books free e-zine "Heritage News".
Visit their web site at www.heritagebooks.com.

STUDENTS OF HIGHLAND SCHOOL - PREDECESSOR OF ESPE SCHOOL

George Apell, NHG member, has pictures of
students at this school from around 1920. If
anyone is interested in talking to him about these
pictures please contact him at gdapell@attbi.com.

ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIALS IN THE CONTEXT OF CONCERN ABOUT TERRORISM

From the NARA website

Q: What is NARA doing differently regarding
access to archival materials? **A:** In light of the
terrorist events of Sept. 11, we are re-evaluating
access to some previously open archival
materials and reinforcing established practices on
screening materials not yet open for research. By
identifying records of concern and measures that
must be taken to prevent inappropriate
disclosure, NARA seeks to reduce the risk of
providing access to materials that might support
terrorist activity.

Q: What specific concerns are we addressing? **A:**
We want to minimize the risk that NARA-held
archival materials might aid terrorists or their
supporters with: stealing a person's identity
through access to names with social security
numbers; (additional items listed mainly dealing
with homeland security.)

Q: How might concern about terrorism change
the way we have been providing access to
records? **A:** To the extent possible NARA is
consulting with representatives of the agencies of
origin and FEMA to determine whether current
circumstances warrant a change in access
provisions for specific records of concern.
These consultations may result in screening
records that have previously been open without
screening. Additional measures, such as
withdrawing a file from public access, may be
required in rare cases.

Ed: What impact, if any, this will have on
genealogical research is unknown. However, we
need to keep this in mind when we request
records from NARA.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In July 1848, probably the earliest public political movement made by women in America was the Seneca Falls Convention in New York. Even though women were heavily involved in many of the reform movements of that time, they realized that with few exceptions they could not take leadership roles or lobby openly for their goals.

Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention and it attracted 240 sympathizers, including 40 men. At the convention a statement modeled on the Declaration of Independence was adopted. They also adopted a series of resolutions calling for women's suffrage and the reform of marital and property laws that kept women in an inferior status. While very little progress came out of the Declaration, it did serve for the next 70 years as the goal for which the suffrage movement strove.

In 1911, in Europe, March 8 was first celebrated as International Women's Day. The main goal of many women's organizations was Women's Suffrage - the right to vote. Unfortunately, the economic conditions of the 1930s put this movement on the back burner in both Europe and America.

The women's liberation movement in the 1960s generated interest in women's issues and women's history. However, it wasn't until the 1970s that things really began to change. It was in this decade that there was a growing sense that women were absent from American history books. Many universities began to offer women's history courses. This altered the focus of history.

In the past it had been geared toward political history, which was dominated by men. With the addition of women, the focus shifted to social history. In 1987 Congress expanded the previous National Women's History Week (est. 1981) to a month.

So, take time this month to recognize the achievements of your female ancestors and realize how different their lives were from the ones women live today.

SCAMS FOLLOWUP

Last month we had an article about genealogical scams. One of the scams (or possible scams) mentioned was GedLink. This is the group that wants you to download their software and let others access your files, while you access theirs. The following is an unsolicited e-mail I received on March 6.

"Hello Donna,

I saw on an Internet page that you're looking for information about surnames like APPMANN and I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to have a look at the GedLink Project. GedLink is a new project (started last May) whose aim is to connect people researching their family histories in a very simple and efficient way. Give GedLink a family name and instantly a world map appears, indicating the various locations around the world where someone has information about your name... Right now, more than 50,000 people in 68 countries are participating - sharing more than 7 million names in a database you can search. Most of the current participants come from Canada, France, Germany and we would like to invite more people in the U.S., U.K., Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere to participate in this project. Olivier Hergalut, GedLink Project.

P.S. You may have seen information on becoming a paying member to support this project, but there is no obligation. GedLink is *basically* FREE OF CHARGE. GedLink is relatively new, so feel free to send us your comments and suggestions. We are constantly improving it!

Ed: I sent them an e-mail. Be interested in their response.

RELUCTANT RELATIVES

The following article was written by Raymond B. Green (rbgreen@surfbest.net). Previously published by GEN DOBRY1, Vol. 3, No. 1, 31 January 2002. Polish Roots. Thanks to Bernice Broniecki for sending this along

It is extremely difficult for us to understand how deeply offensive it is to old-timers, especially the "come-overs", to inquire into family history, so difficult that we cannot imagine the strongly held beliefs that are the causes. They may include one or more of the following:

1. The conviction that this is a great country and there is no reason to know about any other.
2. The attitude that history started anew when they stepped off the ship onto U.S. soil. Prior history is to be forgotten.
3. The attitude that if the old country had been so great, they would have stayed there.
4. Family tradition or personal experience with the religious, ethnic and class prejudice, bigotry, persecution, violence, etc. from which they fled, much worse than here, and most often based on family history.
5. Deeply held suspicions (from personal or family experience) of the use that governments or others may make of family history.
6. Inconsistency with the American ideal that we are all equal, regardless of background.
7. Unpleasant experiences with exclusionary organizations based on family tree or heritage, such as the Daughters or Sons of the American Revolution, the Mayflower, the Confederacy, the Colonial Dames, the Sons of the Golden West, etc.
8. Embarrassment with the humble or other status of relatives or ancestors, an embarrassment we do not understand, but which is very real to those proud and sensitive people

who went through so much so that their descendants can live higher on the social and economic scales.

9. A form of modesty we cannot conceive.

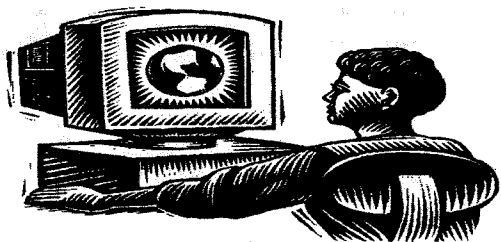
The come-overs wanted to be assimilated, to a large extent (not completely). References to nationality or background, which in the past had often been used against them, were divisive and offensive. "We are all Americans" may best describe their feelings.

"Hyphenated Americans" (Polish-American, German-Americans, etc.) have been invented by the newer generations unfamiliar with the old history and experience; the come-overs did not use such concepts. Most first-generation Americans learned English, at least by the first grade, and then did not look back. The present craze for genealogy started only 20 or 30 years ago, except for the aforesaid exclusionary and snobbish organizations, which long have used family history to justify a sort of feeling of superiority - which our fore bearers wanted nothing to do with - or perhaps to claim a (mostly imaginary) connection with ancient royalty or at least nobility (also a form of boasting). Surely these thoughts were not universal, but may have been at least prevalent.

As a third-generation person who had very little contact with the come-overs, I probably do not understand their feelings any more than anyone else. This may be a poor attempt to explain. But, it is an attempt.

Ed: The opinions expressed here are those of the author and not the Editor or the Board of NHG. They are presented as a possible explanation of why it is sometimes hard to get information from our older relatives.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 16, 2002 - 7:00 PM



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.

1840 Census of Pensioners - Revolutionary War or Military Services

usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/census/1840/index.html

Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census>

Ministers of the Cloth & A few Women - Pastors, Preachers and Priests of Western PA

rootsweb.com/~papastor/

Searchable Database

www.worldgenealogyproject.bigstep.com

Cleveland Necrology Index

cpl.org

Books Online

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu>

TimeLines

ourtimelines.com

Genmaps

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genmaps>

GHOST STORIES OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lone Pine Publishing is collecting true ghost stories of Pennsylvania to be included in the 15th volume of ghost stories from all states. If you know of any famous hauntings or ghostly legends they would like to have them. For more information contact:

editors@lonepinepublishing.com, with attention to Don or mail to Don Asfar c/o Lone Pine Publishing, 10145-81 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E W9.

KEEPING A JOURNAL

The following information is from Borders Bookstore newsletter.

A new book titled, "*Leaving a Trace: On Keeping a Journal - The Art of Transforming a Life Into Stories*", by Alexandra Johnson offers a practical guide to starting and keeping a journal - and transforming it into a larger creative work like a family chronicle, a memoir, or even a novel.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WEBSITE - GLO RECORDS

Follow-Up

Last month we told you that the BLM website had been shutdown by a judge due to security risks. The following message from BLM was received by Suzie Johnson who kindly forwarded it to me.

"Thank you for your recent inquiring regarding our web site. Eastern States is in the process of upgrading the General Land Office (GLO) automated records system web site with more features and reinforcing our security. We are scheduled to be back online by the end of March 2002. We thank you for your interest in our web site and we appreciate your patience."

Patricia Tyler, Branch Chief
GLO Records Automation

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County is called "the Mother County of Western Pennsylvania" because a large number of younger counties in that region were formed from parts of her territory. The last county created by the Provincial Government, incorporated by an Act of February 26, 1773, out of Bedford County, and in 1785 by a part of the Indian purchase of October 23, 1784.

Named after the County of Westmoreland in England, one of the 12 Pennsylvania counties to bear names of English shires. The original county was part of the territory granted by the Dominion of Virginia. From 1776 to 1780 Virginia exercised jurisdiction over this region, causing what has been known as the Virginia War.

Greensburg was incorporated as a borough in 1799, when its name was *Hannastown*. In 1786 the name was changed to *Greensburg* in honor of Major General Nathaniel Greene, an intimate companion in arms of Major General St. Clair. It was the scene of the settlement of the famous Whiskey Insurrection of 1794 and many other startling events in early Pennsylvania.

Monessen derives its name from the first part of Monongahela with Essen, the German wire center, as the remainder of the word. *Arnold* was incorporated in 1895, and named for Andrew Arnold, owner of the original site. *Jeannette* was named for Jeannette McKee, wife of H.S. McKee, who constructed glass works there in 1889.

Latrobe was named for Benjamin H. Latrobe, Jr., distinguished civil engineer. *Ligonier* was named to perpetuate Fort Ligonier built in 1758, under the direction of Colonel Henry Boquet. *New Kensington* was named for the Kensington district of London.

Irwin, incorporated in 1864, was named for John Irwin, its founder. *Mt. Pleasant*, incorporated in 1882, was named for Mt. Pleasant Church, established in 1774. *Vandergrift*, incorporated in 1896, was named for Capt. J. J. Vandergrift, head of the Apollo Iron & Steel Co., which laid out the town in 1895.

Westmoreland County contains 1,039 square miles and includes two cities, 39 boroughs and 223 towns.

DINNER ITEMS IN THE LATE 1600's-EARLY 1700's

Side Dishes

Mulled Cider

Corn Bread

Pickles

Butter & Honey

Spoon Bread

Entree

Roast Chicken

Bean Soup

Brunswick Stew

Salad

Dessert

Indian Pudding

Gingerbread

Lemon Chess Pie

Baked Apples

Apple Sauce

For more information on foods, see:

<http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/kid/food.html>

MOLECULAR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Information obtained from an article in the OGS Genealogy

News, January/February 2002

Submitted by Tom Wiley

A new study known as the Molecular Genealogy Research Project (MGRP) is being conducted by members of Brigham Young University Center for Molecular Genealogy and the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation.

The object behind molecular genealogy is to link individuals together in "family trees" by using the unique genetic markers. They use the DNA of an individual or a population to determine the relatedness of individuals, families, tribal groups and populations. This type of identification is unique. It can discriminate between closely related individuals or even those sharing the same name.

Everyone is the product of his/her inherited DNA.

As a result, it can be used not only to create unique identifications but to identify members of the same family, clan, tribal group or population.

Currently genetics is mainly limited to tests involving the Y chromosome (paternal line) and the mitochondria DNA (maternal line). This allows the identification of a common male or female ancestor that two individuals may share. At the present time these methods are not able to answer more complex genealogical questions concerning additional family lines.

The majority of people in the US today are descended from foreign immigrants, mainly from the countries of the British Isles, Scandinavia and Germany. Unfortunately, many records have been lost which makes it difficult to trace the origins of our ancestors. This is where the use of DNA may be able to help fill in these blanks and allow people to trace their ancestors back to the "homeland."

Currently MGRP is constructing a correlated genealogical/genetic database to help in this search. After the database is functional, people will be able to have genetic testing done to determine the geographic origins of their ancestors.

To date, over 23,000 people have contributed DNA samples to the database. They represent over 150 countries. In order to participate in the study, you must submit a small blood sample and a complete pedigree chart of at least four generations.

This is opening a whole new research method for genealogists. DNA testing is also used for determining genetic causes of certain medical conditions. For people who have certain illnesses in their families, they may be able to determine more about just how the illness/handicap has been passed along to different generations.

If you are interested in becoming a participant in this project, or desire more information, you can contact Ugo A. Perego at ugo@smgf.org. You can also learn where the MGRP group will be presenting their program.

This group will be at the OGS Annual Conference in Toledo on April 18-20 in Toledo. They will be able to answer any questions you may have. For additional information you can check their website at:

<http://www.molecular-genealogy.byu.edu>

There have been concerns raised about the confidentiality of the DNA information. There are many groups advertising this service. As with anything else, it is important to consider the credentials of those providing the testing.

Genetics is the newest frontier in genealogy.

Ralph J. Crandall, ED, New England Historic
and Genealogical Society

**TABLE OF HANDWRITTEN LETTERS
WHICH COULD BE MISINTERPRETED
AS OTHER LETTERS BY AN INDEXER**

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Possible Interpretation</u>
A	H, C, O
a	o, u, ei
B	R, P, S
b	li, le, t, h, l
C	G, E, O, Ce
c	e, i, o, u
D	G, S, I, T
d	u, a, n, ie, ct, o
e	i, c
ee	u, n, ll, w
F	T, S, G
f	s, j, g, q, t
G	S, Q, Z, Ci
g	y, z, q
H	N, W, He, F
h	k, li, lc, le
I	J, L, S, T
i	e, c, l
ie	ei, u, ee, w
J	I, L, S
j	y, g, f
Jno	Mr., Mo
K	H, R, B
k	h, le, lr, te
L	S, T, F
l	e, i, t
ll	tt, ee, u
M	W, H, N
m	w, rr, ni
N	H, W, V, Ne
n	u, a, o, w, m
O	C, U, V, D
o	a, u, n, ei, tt
P	R, B, I
p	ss, g, js
Q	Z, D, I
q	g, y, z
R	Pi, B, S

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Possible Interpretation</u>
r	e, s, i
S	L, I, J
s	r, i, e
SC	X
SS	fs, p, rr
T	F, S, L
t	l, f, ir, i
te	k
tt	ll
U	V, A, O
u	ee, a, o, w
V	N, W, Li, Jr, B
v	u, n, b, rr
W	M, N, U
w	m, rr, ur
X	H, Z, N
x	sc, c, r
Y	F, Z, Q
y	g, q, j
Z	g, Q

CITY DIRECTORY ABBREVIATIONS

atty = attorney	ab = above
av = avenue	bds = boards
B.H. = boarding house	bt = between
bel. = below	col = colored
cor. = corner	h = house
lab = laborer	n = near
o = office	s = shop or store
s.s. = South Side	n.s. = North Side
S. Com = South Common	
N. Com = North Commons	
A = Allegheny City	B = Birmingham
D = Duquesne	L = Lawrenceville
E.P. = East Pittsburgh	M = Manchester
E. B. = East Birmingham	
S. P = South Pittsburgh	Min = Minersville
Mon = Monongahela	T = Temperanceville

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



THE OTHER FEDERAL CENSUS: NON-POPULATION AND SPECIAL SCHEDULES 1810-1935

Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG

April 16, 2002

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A GENEALOGY ADDICT WHEN....

You brake for libraries.

You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.

You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.

You would rather read census schedules than a good book.

You are more interested in what happened in 1697 than 1997.

Moses, Dorcas and Caleb are household names, but you cannot remember what to call the dog.

You can pinpoint Sewickley, McKeesport, Evans City, but can't locate your state capital on the map.

You think every home should have a copier, and

a microfilm reader.

You know every register of deeds in the state by name, but they lock the doors when they see you coming.

You store your clothes under the bed, because your closet is full of books and papers.

All your correspondence begins "Dear Cousin".

You have traced every one of your ancestral lines back to Adam & Eve, have it documented and still don't want to quit.

Is this you?

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.