

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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

Volume 13, Number 2 - September, 2002

e-mail: pioneerbook@juno.com

President: Donna Booth

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Publicity: Gary Schlemmer

Program: Tom Wiley

Mailings: Lois & Bill Daviess

Editor: Donna Booth

Subscription: \$12 per year

10 Issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that summer is almost over, with vacations and reunions now warm memories, it is time to start thinking about getting back to our research.

With cooler weather coming, trips to the library and other research facilities become ideal ways to spend our time.

For many of us the 1930 census will be our object of concentration. Since this census was taken during the Depression, it will be interesting to see how various members of our family were living -- were they working?; what was their personal worth? This is the first opportunity to get a picture of how our parents and grandparents were living during a critical time in our history. One thing I found very interesting was to see many of the people who were living in the town where I grew up, living there in 1930 and recognizing many of the families that are still living there.

Or, maybe we were able to knock down, or at least put a hole, in one of our brick walls. Thanks to information received over the summer, this is what happened for me, and I am anxious to follow up on the recently received information. The exciting part is learning that a possible

ancestor served in the Revolutionary War. I can't wait to get started on this research.

Of course, attending NHG and other genealogy meetings is a great way to spend those winter days and nights. They give us an opportunity to get out and meet with other people who share our enthusiasm for genealogy. We certainly hope to see all of you at upcoming NHG meetings and our Christmas Social. Check out the listing on page 2 of many of the meetings and events.

I hope you all had a great summer and you are now ready to jump back into the research routine. If you have any suggestions for programs, please see Tom Wiley or Irene Dinning. If you have material for the newsletter, you can send it to me at the library, by e-mail (DJBooth@worldnet.att.net) or drop it off at the meeting.

See you at the meetings.

Donna Booth

**OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY
MONTH**

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted

Tuesday, October 1 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, October 15 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Minerd-Miner-Miner Family Web Site, Reunion, Research, Archives, Etc." - Mark A. Miner, President National Minerd-Miner-Miner Reunion and Founder of Minerd.com (see separate article)

Other Meetings/Events

Thursday, September 19 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - Jim Wudarczyk- "Stories of Allegheny Cemetery." - Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Street, Lawrenceville

Monday, September 23 - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 pm - "Preserving the Land, Preserving the Stories: Central Virginia Battlefield Trust & Its Fight to Save America's Sacred Soil" - Mike Stevens. The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard, North Hills.

Saturday, September 28 - 12 noon - 4:30 pm - Western Reserve Historical Society - "Digging for Treasures in the Library" - For information contact G. L. Moore at 440-234-7508 or Nancy Leinweber at 440-368-9245 (fee)

Saturday, October 10 - 7 pm - WPGS Meeting - "Pittsburgh During the American Civil War: 1860-1865" - Arthur Fox. Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.

Saturday, October 19 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Tarentum Genealogical Society - 2002 Genealogy Conference. Speakers: Jean O. Morris, "Born in Pennsylvania, but Where?"; Jay Speyerer, "Putting Your World Into Words"; Photo Antiquities - "Using Photographs in Genealogy"; Mickey

Cendrowski "Where Did I Put That?" (fee)

Sunday, Oct. 20 - 1:00-4:00 pm - Reserve Township History Day - Mount Troy Ballroom. Come experience an afternoon of memories. Feel free to bring any piece of history you may have, so it can be shared with the township.

THE EVOLUTION OF IMMIGRANTS' NAMES

Karen Frisch

Ancestry Daily News (copyright 1998-2002, MyFamily.com, Inc and its subsidiaries)

Many genealogists who trace their family history find themselves with the additional burden of losing their name in translation. Mark Dennen believed that his surname was rare when he began exploring his family history. Knowing it was Irish in origin, he began his search among the records of Ireland.

He was surprised to discover that Dennen was a derivative of O'Doineannaigh and that there were many who descended from that surname. Rather than having few who shared his origins, the opposite turned out to be the case. From Dennen to Dennehy to Denenshe, there were many who had similar names, and all were related.

Whether slightly or dramatically, names often changed when families emigrated to America. In order to Americanize themselves, some immigrants Anglicized their names by translating it literally. Thus Rousseau became Brooks, (and so on.

Language and cultural difference forced many immigrants to undergo significant changes as they adjusted to their new home. Some names were deliberately changed by families who preferred to be assimilated quickly into the

(continued on next page)

lifestyles of their new country. Families named Schmidt who emigrated from Germany sometimes adopted the name Smith once they were established in America.

For years, there was a common conception that many names were changed at Ellis Island used to be accepted, but that idea had since been challenged. In an article on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) site, Marian L. Smith, a historian with the INS, reveals that immigrants were given more attention at Ellis Island than had been previously thought. She notes that passenger lists of names were compiled abroad before departure. According to records, a third of immigrant inspectors at Ellis Island had emigrated from foreign countries and spoke other languages.

Even Christian names were sometimes abandoned in an immigrant's new country, not necessarily through any legal process rather for the sake of convenience. Around 1882, Koleda, Schaffer immigrated to America with her father following the death of her mother in Bavaria. She took a job as a domestic with a New England family. When the children in the family found it too difficult to pronounce the name Koleda, she changed it to Anna.

The American name she had selected appeared on her tombstone as well as her death certificate.

Her own children later remembered hearing their mother say that her name had been Koleda before she changed it. Since there was no further reference to her given name, no legal record remains of it in America.

Chinese names often feature adaptations of the same origin. Wang, Wong and Huang all derive from Wang, since traditionally the ruler or king (translated as Wang) would name the people in villages he visited. While the spelling of the name might have changed once an immigrant reached America, the origins remain.

Ironically, the common ancient English names that represent occupations such as Miller or Cartwright usually survived intact. Names representing locations like Woods or Barnes also survived because they required no translation.

In cases where immigration records cannot be found, a thorough knowledge of siblings' names is helpful. Siblings often made the passage from the old country to the new, confirming the family connection when original names get lost in translation.

For more information:

American Names/Declaring Independence. by
Marion Smith, INS Historian.

HELP WANTED

NHG Member Mildred Halechko is looking for someone to help her complete her Magna Carta descendant book by indexing it. She wants to index by descendant number and there are thousands of entries. If you can help Mildred (who will be 80 this month), please contact her at:

Mildred Halechko
1958 Menold Drive
Allison Park, PA 15201-2836
412-635-0833

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

To receive an e-mail notification of upcoming NHG meetings and events and other genealogical events in the area, send your e-mail address to the following:

pioneerbook@juno.com

IMMIGRANT PROCESSING CENTERS IN NEW YORK CITY

If an ancestor came to the US via New York after 1855 but before Ellis Island opened in 1892, he/she would have landed at Castle Garden, in Battery Park on the southwest tip of Manhattan, or at the Barge Office on the southeast tip of Manhattan. Before 01 August 1855, the ship's captain gave the Custom Officials the ship's passenger list when the ship pulled into Manhattan, and the immigrants disembarked from wherever the ship had docked. There was no set place for processing immigrants before 1855. Ship's passenger lists were started to be provided in 1820.

Here are the dates the processing centers were active in New York City:

Castle Garden - 01 Aug 1855 - 18 Apr. 1890

Barge Office - 19 April 1890 - 31 Dec. 1891

Ellis Island - 01 Jan 1892 - 13 June 1897

Barge Office - 14 June 1897 - 16 Dec. 1900

Ellis Island - 17 Dec. 1900 - 31 Dec. 1924

(note: Ellis Island burned down in 1897 and was not reopened until 1901)

If you know when your ancestor arrived at New York, with the dates above you can determine where he/she may have landed and which records to access. Below are some sites to tell you more about these processing centers.

Castle Garden

<http://home.att.net/~germanroots/ellisland/castlegarden.html>

Immigrant Processing Centers for New York

<http://germanroots.home.att.net/ellisland>

The Immigrant Experience

<http://webcenter.ellisland.netscape.com/Immexp/index.asp>

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Saturday, December 7, 2002

On Saturday, December 7, NHG will have its annual Christmas Social get-together. This year we will be taking a tour of the Fort Pitt Museum and will also enjoy a personal presentation by a re-enactor in period costume. The tour will begin at 10:00 am.

Following the tour we will have lunch at the historic 1902 Tavern on Market Square. This year you will be able to order directly from the restaurant's menu.

Following lunch, around 3 pm, there will be a brief historic tour of Market Square by a member of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

Cost for the Fort Pitt Tour will be \$5.00.

Mark this date on your calendar now. Here's a chance to get a personal tour of historic Fort Pitt Museum and Market Square. We will have a reservation form in next month's newsletter.

Hope to see you all there.

NOVEMBER 19 NHG MEETING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Share your successes and problems with fellow members. Exchange techniques that have worked for you and any "brick-walls" that you are facing. Someone has probably had the same problem and may have gone over or around it. Tell us about your on-line experience. What's your favorite web, database, etc. for family genealogy and history.

Gather your questions now and be ready to share at the meeting.

NHG OCTOBER 15 MEETING

MINERD-MINER-MINOR FAMILY WEB SITE, REUNION, RESEARCH, ARCHIVES, ETC.

Mark A. Miner

Family Website Given Best Site Pick Award

The subject of the October 15 meeting of NHG is the Minerd-Miner-Minor Family website. Making the presentation is Mark Miner, founder of the site, Minerd.com and president of the National Minerd-Miner-Minor Reunion.

Earlier this summer, this site was given the "Best Site Pick" award by the Golden Gate Genealogy Forum, a large popular national genealogy forum on AOL. Past winners have included Cyndi's List and the US GenWeb Project. Golden Gate selects only one site each month and Minerd.com is one of only two family-specific sites so honored since the awards began in 1999.

On June 30, John Fuller, Best Site Pick Team coordinator, emailed Mark, "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the staff of Golden Gate Genealogy Forum on AOL has selected your Minerd-Miner-Minor Family Web Site as the July 2002 winner of our Best Site Pick award.."

"The team that reviewed the site was impressed with the way you achieved your mission ... providing a center for sharing research and promoting your clan's national reunion, helping cousins and communities connect with their roots, honoring past lives with biographies and exploring the clan's impact on American society and culture. Your site is one of the best we have seen for family content, organization, and serving the family historical aims and mission. The depth of information provided is awesome, the citing of sources was excellent, the graphics were effective and enhanced material throughout, and the family links were effective and aided in easy navigation. Your efforts are to be

commended. Keep up the excellent work."

Through the help of Northland Library's Communication Coordinator, Frank Griffin, the Minerd.com website will be shown live during the presentation using the library's computer, project and wireless online connection. Handouts will also be provided.

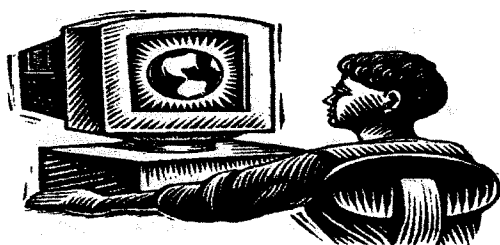
After signing onto the home page, the audience will also be able to see the colorful banner, recent color and old black and white photos, and read stories of recent reunions and past German ancestors.

One article tells about this year's two-day National Minerd-Miner-Minor Reunion which drew more than 120 cousins from 27 PA towns and 11 states. Perusing the various items resulted in gleaning the following: 13,600 cousins and spouses identified, but it may be as many as 40,000 all told; 17 more Civil War soldiers discovered; the 800th biography added; an alphabetic listing of 1,400 names.

On the home page Mark writes, "In May this year, Minerd.com celebrated it's second anniversary online. During it's first 26 months, our national family website had been visited by a staggering 94,000+ times. It's reached out to the public in exciting new ways that were never imagined or expected. In July, the site received 8,475 visits."

The links shown on the home page include: Photo of the Month, What's New, Reunions, Biographies, September 11, Family Impact, Western Pioneers, Family Archives, and many more.

If you are not sure what some of these subjects mean, come to the presentation and ask Mark. He is anxious to share his family website experiences and encourage us to create our own family websites.



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Text of articles printed in the Tribune-Review -
Pittsburgh & Greensburg from 1988 - obits,
births, marriages

[http://library.triblive.com/interconnect/
intercon.dll](http://library.triblive.com/interconnect/intercon.dll)

Cuyahoga County, OH Genealogy and History
rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah2.index.html

Rookie's guide to Genealogy Research
[www.acceleratedgenealogy.com/rookie/rookie
.htm](http://www.acceleratedgenealogy.com/rookie/rookie.htm)

USGenWeb Tombstone Transcription Project
rootsweb.com/~cemetery

Guide to Immigration Records and Ship's
Passenger Lists
<http://home.att.net/~arnielang/shipguide.html>

Marriage Records from RootsWeb
<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/marriages>

Finnish Family History Research
<http://Members.aol/dssaari>

Norwegian Digital Archives
<http://diditalarkivet.uib.no/index-eng-htm>

Abbreviations Found in Genealogy
rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/abbrev.html

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FROM EVERTON PUBLISHERS

The following is taken from a letter from Everton Publishers, Inc.

"Most genealogists are aware of the many challenges that societies and genealogical organizations face. The lack of financial funding is generally the most common of these problems. Ironically, genealogy is the fastest growing hobby in the world, yet society membership and funds continue to decrease. We would like to help reverse this trend. Now when your members order a one-year subscription to *Everton's Family History Magazine*, 10% of the subscription price is donated to your society! It only costs \$28.95 to subscribe and through our new fundraising program your society would keep \$8.95 of this fee."

This is a great opportunity for you to subscribe to this great magazine and help NHG at the same time.

If you would like to participate in this special offer, please complete the form on the last page of the newsletter and give it, along with \$28.95, to any Board member. We will then send in all the subscriptions to Everton Publishers, Inc.

Please note that the deadline for this special offer is **OCTOBER 31, 2002**. We will need your form and money no later than **OCTOBER 18, 2002**.

If you would rather not tear apart your newsletter, forms are available on the back table.

There are also copies of recent issues of the magazine for you to check out. (Please note: These are NOT sample copies. Actually, they are mine - so please do not take them.)

Don't miss out on this opportunity.

ALLEGHENY ARSENAL

Continuation of an article based on information from Jim Wudarczyk of the Lawrenceville Historical Society

At 2 pm on September 17, 1862, three disastrous explosions ripped through the laboratory of the Allegheny Arsenal where cartridges were being loaded. One of the most complete sources existing on the tragedy are the issues of the Daily Post between September 18th and 29th of 1862. The explosion claimed the lives of 78 persons, most of whom were young girls, and was the worst civilian disaster in the history of the Civil War.

A coroner's inquest was impaneled to investigate the explosion, but the jury after days of testimony was split, and therefore, no charges could be pressed. Colonel Symington felt that he did not receive fair treatment and requested a military investigation, which was conducted in October of 1862. This investigation absolved Symington and the other officers of any wrong-doing.

Although no one knows the reason for the explosion, one common theory is that the workers were lax in dealing safely with gunpowder and a spark from a mule's hoof set off the first of three explosions that destroyed the laboratory. This was never proven but the negligence theory may have some validity. Charles Puder, in his "Memories of Lawrenceville," points out that his great-grandfather worked at the arsenal, and his grandfather, John P. Driesch, would carry a noon meal in a lunchbox each day. According to Mr. Puder, his grandfather, upon leaving, would fill up the lunch bucket with gunpowder and take it home. Charles Puder wrote, "He and the other boys would then wet it and roll it into a candle about 2" in diameter and about 12" high. This they would put on the hill where the retirement apartment building is behind Saint Augustine Church on 36th Street and light it. It would burn

slowly with a bright light and light up that portion of Lawrenceville with a spreading glow."

Principal Figures in the Explosion

Colonel John Symington, born in Delaware, was a graduate of West Point Academy in 1815. He served the U.S. Army for almost 50 years before being relieved of his command at the Allegheny Arsenal on November 1, 1862. From then until June 1, 1863, he was on sick leave of absence before retiring from the military. Symington was unemployed until his death on April 4, 1864, in Hartford County, Maryland. He most likely died a broken man.

Symington was a victim of his times. A stern disciplinarian, he dismissed some 200 boys working at the arsenal when matches were found around gunpowder shortly before the Civil War and replaced them with girls, whom he felt were more reliable. In the opinion of many Lawrenceville residents, Symington was disliked because of the dismissal and for his role in the removal of the cannon in December 1860. Furthermore, suspicion grew against the commander when his son ran away from home to join the Southern Army and his daughter appeared for church services wearing a Confederate rosette.

Second Lieutenant John R. Edie, a native of Pennsylvania, was a graduate of West Point Class of 1846, and served as an aide-de-camp of Colonel Orlando B. Wilcox at the First Bull Run battle. He came to the Allegheny Arsenal in October 1861, and served there until December, 1862, when he transferred to the ordnance department of the Army of the Potomac and later served with General George G. Meade's staff. After the Civil War he served at various arsenals throughout the country. Therefore, it seems safe to assume, that the tragedy at the Allegheny

(continued on next page)

Arsenal did not hinder his career. Edie, however, had a short-lived life, dying in a government asylum at the age of 35.

Second Lieutenant Jasper Myers came to the Allegheny Arsenal immediately following graduation from West Point in June 1862, but remained at the arsenal for only six or seven months. Like Edie, Myers held other positions of authority during the war and later served at other arsenals. He left the Army in 1870 and took up the practice of law in San Francisco, prospering in that profession until his death in 1918 at the age of 80.

Alexander McBride first arrived at the Allegheny Arsenal on September 10, 1844, and served for five consecutive years in military service. He re-enlisted at the Arsenal until 1854, then was employed until 1865 at the Allegheny Arsenal as a civilian employee. After the first explosion, McBride rushed to one of the magazines where he closed an open door, thus preventing another disaster by stopping flying fragments from penetrating the magazine. McBride was thrown some 30 feet by a second explosion, but that did not deter him from helping the injured and fighting the fires. Among the victims of the explosion was his daughter Katie. At the age of 82 McBride was still active with trying to obtain compensation from the government for the families of the victims of the arsenal explosion.

Legends

Over the years a number of stories and legends concerning the arsenal developed and circulated around Lawrenceville. There is no way to prove these stories, but it is doubtful that there is any validity to the legends.

Behind the powder magazine it is said there were once three wooden sheds, but these were covered over by W.P.A. workers.

Others say there are cannon buried in the ballfield and on the grass between the entrance fronting Davison Street and Arsenal School. Persons who have gone over this 40th Street area with metal detectors have come up empty.

The most interesting - and amusing - of the legends are those concerning the massive network of tunnels that run under the arsenal grounds. While long-time residents swear to their existence, they do not show up on any military maps. Some say that the phantom tunnels run from the river to Butler Street; others contend they run from the river to Penn Avenue; still others say they run clear up to Liberty Avenue.

For additional readings on the Arsenal and Lawrenceville, check any of the following publications.

Monster on the Allegheny and Other Lawrenceville Stories; Allan Becer, James Wudarczyk and Jude Wudarczyk: Lawrenceville Historical Society, 1993.

Ye Know Not What Hour Your Lord Doth Come: Tragedy at the U.S. Allegheny Arsenal.

John Carnprobst. *Blue and Gray Magazine*, September-October 1985

Jim Wudarczyk conducts walking tours of Lawrenceville and often the Arsenal is part of the tour. It is a very interesting tour to take. Check with the Lawrenceville Historical Society for information on any of his tours.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jo Henderson

The Cemetery Committee is getting ready to begin fall readings of cemeteries. Yes, we need as many volunteers as we can get. Everyone who joins us seems to have a good time - they come back anyway! To join, e-mail Irene Dinning at dinning@stargate.net or Jo Henderson at chens4th@aol.com. Or you can call Jo at 412/322-2626. The first readings will be around September 26-28 but it will be confirmed by email from Irene. If you have some definite YES or NO days in that period, give Irene an e-mail - it may influence what days we try to schedule. Of course, it depends upon the weather, too - most of us are not ashamed to be Fair Weather Cemetery Friends!

NHG MEMBER'S STORY

Peg Duffy

Some years ago my husband's parents were visiting the Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH with us. At an exhibit with information about Gen. Pershing, my father-in-law turned to my husband and said, "You know, when your mother's parents had a tiff and she kicked him out, he joined up and served under 'Black Jack' chasing around after Pancho Villa." Since my husband's mother and her father had been estranged for many years before his death, she said nothing.

That anecdote became real with the information on grandfather's Mexican Border Campaign card from the ARIAS site.

Yes, grandfather Walter did indeed enlist on June 23, 1916 - five days after President Wilson's call for the Mexican Emergency. To add credence to the family story, Walter listed himself as single and his mother - not his wife - as the emergency contact. (Church records indicate that he was

married at the time.)

Now we want to learn how a chauffeur from Allegheny City learned to ride and shoot well enough to serve in the Cavalry under Pershing in this period of history that we know only from wild west films.

QUICK TIPS

Ancestry Daily News, August 27, 2002

UPON FURTHER REVIEW....

We're often told that we should check back over information on hand occasionally. Just this morning I found out how true that is.

As I was compiling information on my husband's family, I found a listing of two daughters on the 1860 census for his great-grandfather. The 1880 census, in another state, lists three sons, but no daughters. Whatever happened to those daughters?

Today I found the answer in a copy of a letter my husband's cousin sent me in 1986, which she had received from another relative. Apparently, when I read that letter the first time, I failed to see the connection of people referenced to my husband's side of the family. Included in the letters were both daughters and the husband and children of one of the daughters.

Martha Panetti

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.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

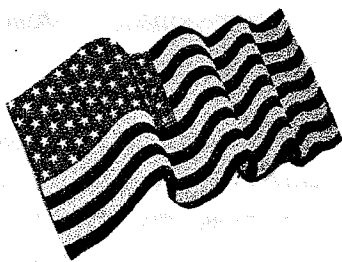
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Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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ARCHIVES, ETC.**

Mark A. Miner

October 1⁵ 2002

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FORM & MONEY DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 18, 2002